QB BATTLE TAKES CENTER STAGE

THE EAGLES AND PATS KICK OFF PRESEASON. PAGE 45

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Weekend, August 8-11, 2013 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

ALL HELL'S 'BREAKING' LOOSE

PAGES 16, 18

Bryan Cranston, right, and Aaron Paul tell us to expect twists and turns in these final eight episodes of "Breaking Bad." / FRANK OCKENFELS 3, AMC

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1 NEWS

Top 3

Trending online at Metro.us

1 'Florida camp brings "The Hunger Games" to life'

2 '"Sandlot" stars Benny the Jet and Wendy Peffercorn are doing better than Smalls and Yeah-Yeah'

3 'Bomb threat causes US Airways plane to land in Philadelphia'

Local Tweet

"They better chill, I'm getting on the plane in 2 weeks.... They better cut out them bomb threats"

Micah Coleman, tweeting from @DeaconKirby, on an alleged bomb scare that forced officials to search a plane that landed at PHL Aug. 7

Weed-eating goats take their talents on the road

Naaaaa. Goats have been mowing down weeds and poison ivy at Wissahickon Valley Park as a natural alternative.

Yvonne Post raises the goats to eat weeds and uses them for teaching, too. / PROVIDED

The hell with Weedwackers. Wissahickon Valley Park prefers goats.

Since 2010, five of them — plus one recently deceased — chewed away poison ivy and pesky weeds that dotted the park's five-acre landscape. But after three years, they're moving on to greener pastures.

Named after artists — Rodin, Wyeth, Kandinsky, Caravaggio, Goodwin and the late Andy Warhol — the goats were part of an informal natural weed-removal study led by the Friends of the Wissahickon.

While it may be new to city dwellers, the use of goats as weed eaters is not a new concept.

"That's the real reason goats have been on farms over hundreds of years," said Yvonne Post, the goat herd owner. "Because the farmer would always have one or two goats, their job would be to keep the growth down before we invented Weedwackers."

Post announced recently that she and her daughter, Deirdre Sheehy, are taking the show on the road to promote the use of goats as sustainable weed control. Their cross-country journey starts Aug. 11.

The trip will take the goats through Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana before ending at their new home on a farm in Molalla, Ore.

After trials in a few other locations, Post was approached by the Wissahickon group to bring her furry friends to Philly to help control the park's overgrowth. And in the process, she discovered the goats have an appetite for bamboo, poison ivy and other unsightly weeds.

The goats liked ivy so much, "They will actually go up on their hind legs to reach it on a tree," Post said.

Sarah Marley, outreach manager for the park friends, said while the Department of Recreation will use old-school methods such as hand-pulling and herbicides when the animals depart, they hope to restock the herd in the near future.

The park plans to work with a group from Delaware to bring in some new talent.

But the fab five were a special breed.

"We are going to miss the goats," Marley said, "For sure."

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Goat art

Post named the goats after artists because she uses the mohair as a fiber in her art projects.

- The goats are sheered twice a year.
- They each produce about 3 to 5 pounds per sheering.
- After it's sheered, the fiber is processed and lanolin is washed out.
- Fibers are stretched together so it can be spun into yarn or used in other felt projects.

Quoted

"I had the goats for about five years, and when I got them, I decided that they needed a job. So we started educating about sustainable weed control." Post

Shooting. Man shot to death in front of Port Richmond home

A man was shot and killed while sitting on the front steps of his Port Richmond home on Aug. 6.

The 37-year-old man was found shot to death about 11:30 p.m. on the 3300 block of Agate Street, reports say.

Medics pronounced the victim dead a short time after his bullet-riddled body was discovered.

He had been shot in his head and face, according to a report.

Philadelphia police were to review surveillance video taken in the area in hopes of determining who shot the victim. METRO

Gas main break

Fire injuries three at college

Three people were injured Aug. 7 when a construction worker at Rosemont College in Bryn Mawr struck a gas main, causing it to burst into flames.

Work was being done on new sports fields when the fire occurred.

METRO

Nice spread

Officers at Phils games to get special treat

Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey will team up with SangKee owner Michael Chow and philanthropist Kal Rudman to serve special lunches to the more than 100 police officers who patrol Phillies home games.

The lunches will be served to 120 police officers during the Aug. 8 game against the Cubs.

Rudman and Ramsey
PROVIDED

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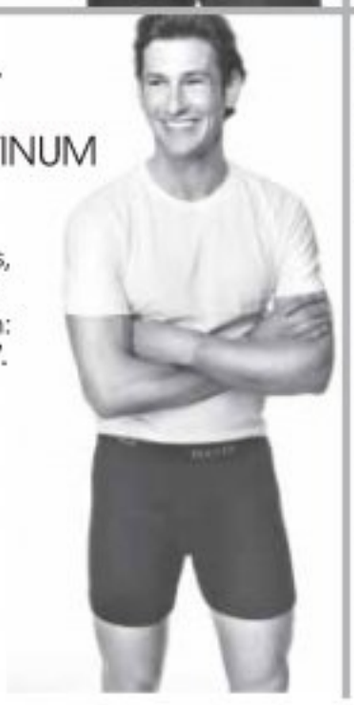

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Suspect

Police seek robber

Police are looking for a woman they say stole money from Botanica Chango in Upper Kensington and pointed a box cutter at an employee.

The woman is described as black, in her 20s, 5-foot-8 and 180 pounds. METRO

Animal abuse

Twenty-five dead cats removed from home

The Pennsylvania division of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals last week reportedly removed 25 dead cats from a Bethlehem home that may have had as many as 100 cats living in it.

The SPCA reportedly retrieved the 25 dead cats from a freezer, where a woman who lives in the home on the 1500 block of Easton Avenue had placed them after wrapping them and noting how each had died, the Express-Times reports.

The dead cats were recovered last Thursday.

The SPCA also took 20 ill cats from the home, but left as many as 60 more with the homeowners, who agreed to sign over ownership of the sick cats to the SPCA.

The SPCA is working on a plan to remove more of the cats from the home. METRO

Wanted. Police seek two suspects in robberies, assault

Riggins / PPD

Clark / PPD

Philadelphia Police are looking for two suspects who are wanted for several gunpoint robberies in North Philadelphia and the sexual assault of a teenager.

Hashiem Clark and Raheim Riggins were identified as the suspects after police watched surveillance video.

The two men allegedly robbed several places between July 19 and July 30 along Lehigh Avenue between 22nd and 29th streets.

Police said both men were armed in all the robberies. The two are demanding money, cell phones and debit cards, police said.

The men sexually assaulted a 15-year-old female, according to police.

Both men are known to carry firearms and should be considered armed and dangerous, police said.

Police ask anyone with information to call the Central Detectives Division at 215-686-3047. METRO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) is a participant in the Moving to Work Demonstration Program (MTW). PHA was initially selected to participate in the MTW Program in 2001. In October 2008, PHA entered into an Amended and Restated Moving to Work Agreement ("MTW Agreement") with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), which has subsequently been further amended.

The MTW Agreement defines the terms and conditions under which PHA is a participant in the MTW Program. The MTW Agreement requires that PHA submit an MTW Annual Plan for HUD review and approval. PHA's current MTW Annual Plan for MTW Year Thirteen (PHA Fiscal Year 2014) was approved by HUD on May 30, 2013.

PHA is seeking public review and comments on two proposed actions relative to the MTW Program:

- **Amendment to the MTW Agreement** – The proposed amendment to the MTW Agreement will provide PHA with additional flexibility in utilizing Replacement Housing Factor funds received by PHA from HUD.
- **Amendment to the MTW Year Thirteen Annual Plan** – The proposed amendment to the MTW Annual Plan will: 1) Establish that PHA may apply to convert one or more public housing sites under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program and that PHA may utilize MTW Block Grant funds to support the conversion; and, 2) Allow PHA to establish a flexible subsidy program for newly developed or acquiredpublic housing units, subject to HUD review and approval of each transaction.

Additional information regarding the proposed amendments is available from PHA. Copies are available for public review on PHA's website at: www.pha.phila.gov under the "Latest News" section or may be picked up at the following locations:

Housing Choice Voucher Program Office: 2850 Germantown Ave 1st & 2nd Floor

Scattered Sites Management Offices: 3417 Spring Garden Street, 1821 Vineyard St. 3226 McMichael St., 3218 Susquehanna Avenue, 400 W. Huntingdon St.

Public Housing Management Offices: Bartram - 5404 Gibson Drive, **Wilson Park** - 2500 Jackson St. **Raymond Rosen** – 2110 N. 23rd St., **Blumberg** - 2311 W. Jefferson St.

PHA residents, Housing Choice Voucher participants and the general public may attend and provide comments at the Public Hearing described below and/or submit written comments on these proposed actions any time during the comment period. The Public Hearing is scheduled for the following time and location: **August 27, 2013 10 a.m. until noon, 1100 Poplar Street Philadelphia, PA19123, Multipurpose Room.**

Only comments pertaining to the proposed actions noted above are being solicited. The comment period begins on August 6, 2013 at 12 noon and ends September 5, 2013 at 12 noon. All comments must be received by the end of the comment period. Please send your written comments to: **Philadelphia Housing Authority, Office of Policy, Research and Enterprise Planning, Attention: MTW Comment, 1606 Swain St., Philadelphia, PA 19130.**

The Public Hearing is being held in an accessible location. If you require assistance, sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 215-684-4000. Please use the AT&T Relay Service for TTY.

Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

Pint-sized Monopoly

Five-year-old Nolan Trouillot plays on a sculpture at Municipal Plaza in Center City on Wednesday, Aug. 7, during his visit to Philadelphia from France. / PAIGE OZAROSKI, METRO

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Katz's Philly historical film will continue

Kickstarted.
More episodes of 'Philadelphia: The Great Experiment" will be produced, including a 90-minute feature.

Katz's interesting Philadelphia finds

- **Women:** "I didn't know the incredibly important role women have played in history. They had been largely written out."
- **Engineers:** "The role of railroads is not only significant but what drove industrial leadership in Philadelphia was engineers."
- **Disease:** "Philadelphia was a city plagued by yellow fever."

Three-time mayoral candidate and current film producer Sam Katz has reached his goal of raising more than $53,000 through Kickstarter to continue his documentary on Philadelphia and turn it into a 90-minute feature.

As of Aug. 7, more than $62,000 has been raised.

Four episodes of "Philadelphia: The Great Experiment" have already aired and the money raised will go toward post-production for the next set of episodes and a longer movie.

The idea for the historical documentation of Philadelphia started about a decade ago, when Katz watched the film "Gangs of New York."

"I spent two years reading and meeting with historians," Katz said.

After the pilot was produced, it took more than 100 screenings before 6ABC decided to air it. Four of the 12 episodes have been broadcast — and were very successful.

Quoted

"There were so many different people writing about so many different things. We were able to incorporate many voices." Katz

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Katz has been a political fixture in the city for two decades.

"I have a long history of my own in Philadelphia," he said. "I played basketball here, been involved in civic life here. I've watched the city change."

It's been his famous face that has helped fund this project, which has become very close to his heart. But that wasn't always the case.

"History has become a real passion for me, but it wasn't before," Katz said. "I'm sorry that it wasn't. I have learned in the last five or six years, in many cases, things I should have known."

The next episode of "Philadelphia: The Great Experiment" will air some time this fall. The 90-minute feature will focus on Philadelphia from 1944-1994. The series spans the city's 350-year history.

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
christina.paciolla@metro.us

Continuing his father's lasting legacy

Martin Luther King III visited Philadelphia Wednesday, Aug. 7, to deliver remarks alongside Mayor Michael Nutter to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic march on Washington. / PAIGE OZAROSKI, METRO

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Health care

Congress wins relief on Obamacare subsidies

Congress has partially wriggled free from the "Obamacare" health reforms that it passed and subjected itself to three years ago.

In a ruling issued on Wednesday, U.S. lawmakers and their staffs will continue to receive a federal contribution toward the health insurance that they must purchase through soon-to-open exchanges created by President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law.

The decision by the Office of Personnel Management, with Obama's blessing, will prevent the largely unintended loss of healthcare benefits for 535 members of the Senate and House of Representatives and thousands of Capitol Hill staff. REUTERS

Obama cancels meeting with Putin over Snowden decision

Obama and officials debated whether to go ahead with the Moscow visit to give Obama the opportunity to outline his concerns to Putin face-to-face, but decided to express displeasure publicly by canceling. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"President Putin is acting like a school-yard bully and doesn't deserve the respect a bilateral summit would have accorded him." Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer

Backing him up. Obama received vocal support from Democrats and GOP for the decision.

President Barack Obama on Wednesday abruptly canceled a Moscow summit with President Vladimir Putin planned for next month in a retaliation for Russia's decision to grant asylum to fugitive Edward Snowden.

The cancellation marks a stark low point in U.S.-Russian relations in the years since Obama embarked on a "reset" in ties to try to gain more diplomatic cooperation, only to find that deep differences remain.

"Following a careful review begun in July, we have reached the conclusion that there is not enough recent progress in our bilateral agenda with Russia to hold a U.S.-Russia summit in early September," White House spokesman Jay Carney said in a statement.

Speaking with reporters in a phone conference, Putin's foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said the cancellation was caused by the dispute between the two countries over Snowden.

He said Russia's invitation for Obama to visit Russia still stood.

Beyond Snowden, however, a long list of grievances separate the two governments, topped by Russia's support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Syria's civil war.

"The real issue here is that the U.S.-Russian relationship has been adrift since 2011," said Andrew Weiss, a Russian expert at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. REUTERS

Kremlin

Russia 'disappointed' by Obama cancellation

President Barack Obama's decision to cancel a planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin is disappointing, but he is still welcome in Russia, a top Kremlin foreign policy aide said.

"We are disappointed by the U.S. administration's decision to cancel the visit of President Obama to Moscow planned in early September," Putin's foreign policy aide, Yuri Ushakov, told reporters.

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Demolished. Wrecking crew razes Cleveland home of Ariel Castro

Wrecking crews on Wednesday demolished a rundown Cleveland house where three young women were imprisoned and tortured by Ariel Castro for about a decade.

An aunt of Gina DeJesus, one of the three abducted and held captive by Castro, took the first swipe at the house shortly after 7 a.m., operating a hydraulic excavator with assistance as a crowd swarmed the site, snapping photographs and applauding.

DeJesus' mother, Nancy Ruiz, cheered as the huge arm on a heavy demolition truck ripped into the pink room where her daughter had been held and fed through a hole in the door, County Executive Ed FitzGerald told Reuters. Reporters had limited access to the site.

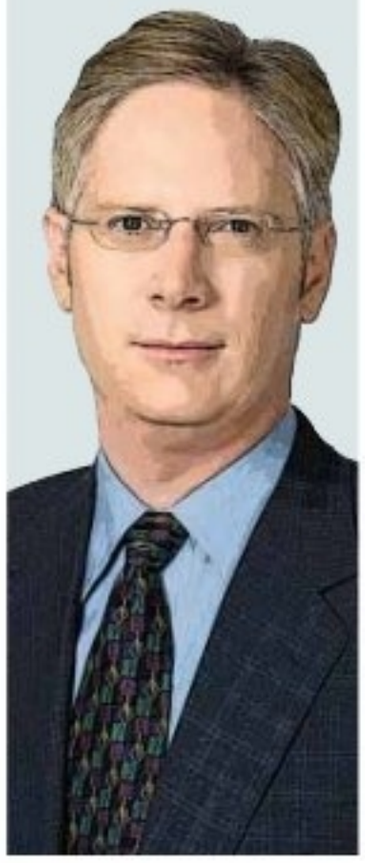
The longest-held captive, Michelle Knight, 32, arrived at the house with a bunch of yellow balloons and watched as the home of her tormentor was torn to the ground. REUTERS

Demoliton crews clean up the remains of Ariel Castro's home after it was torn down yesterday. / GETTY IMAGES

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

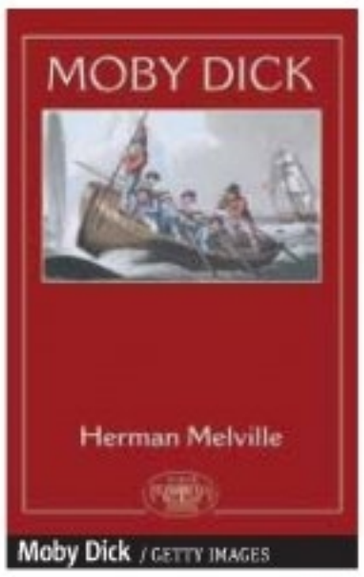


CNN=POLITICS

I'LL MAKE IT SHORT

Many articles lately have prattled on about how young people are growing up in a world in which no written thought will require more than 140 characters, no video more than 16 seconds and even fast food will be faster. Well, good luck to the short-attention-span generation, because I'm not convinced new-age social commentators are right about all this. Sure, "Gilligan's Island" may be able to withstand this sort of intellectual drive-by shooting (I mean, how hard is it to grasp the idea of seven people stuck on a pile of sand, even if one is Mr. Howell?) but other works could pose greater challenges.

Still, in the spirit of inter-generational cooperation, I've been Twitter-cising some of humankind's greatest literary accomplishments so that the wisdom of ages will not be lost on the texting-at-birth set.



Moby Dick / GETTY IMAGES

#MobyDick — Call me Ishmael. But seriously, call me, because if my boss keeps me chasing this whale around one more week, I am out of here.

#ATaleOfTwoCities — It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Like when I dated that girl in college, am I right, Chuck?

#HuckleberryFinn — Homelessness has been around a long while. But apparently if you have a raft, it can be kind of fun!

#AnnaKarenina — Anna? Are you OK? I've messaged you like a hundred times.

#ToKillAMockingbird — Honestly, this has nothing to do with ornithology. Just saying.

#TheGreatGatsby — Jay meet Daisy. Daisy, Jay. Nice party. And WTH? Was that a car crash down by the filling station?

#TheSunAlsoRises — And then it sets, then rises again and then sets. Meanwhile, we fish and talk. BTW: Why is Jake so cranky?

#TheIliad — FYI, Brad Pitt is pretty good with a sword, but he has weak ankles.

It's just a start and I'm open to suggestions, but if we're going to reduce the culture of all humanity to 140-character bursts we'd better get on it. After all, maybe Tolstoy had time on his hands, but the kids these days? It seems they are quite busy.

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Bugging out

Where did you come up with this idea?

It was my graduation project. I started to research about factory farming in general. I felt I could only do something with alternative food sources, as otherwise I would end up contributing to this dysfunctional system. So I looked into alternatives, and that´s when insects became interesting to me. I researched the various kinds of insects and how they are raised, and the black soldier fly turned out as the most efficient for my purpose (due to its specific life cycle.)

Farm 432 / METRO WORLD NEWS

Hey honey, what's for dinner tonight? Bugs

Fly food. A new kitchen device produces insects that are ready to eat.

With the population growing, the need for alternative food sources to feed billions is dire. Industrial designer Katharina Unger believes she has a solution to the problem: She thinks we should all eat bugs. Unger's device, Farm 432, allows people to cultivate and harvest their own edible fly larvae. We talked to the creator about the project and why we should start considering insects as part of a balanced meal.

Most people say "Ew, bugs!" What makes them such a good snack?
They contain lots of protein, amino acids and calcium. We tend to have negative associations with them, but if you look at them just like you do at any other sort of food it makes sense to eat them. They can be raised sustainably — some of them, like my larvae, can be fed on biowaste and are therefore very cost efficient in terms of resources. And they taste good! I just had a barbecue this weekend where I served some and my friends and family loved them!

What does fly larvae taste like?
A bit meaty and nutty. They are a bit harder on the outside and like soft meat on the inside. When you cook them, they smell a bit like cooked potatoes, starchy.

Bugs are a bit harder on the outside and like soft meat on the inside. / METRO WORLD NEWS

Have you ever tried to cater a three-course dinner using bugs as your main protein?
Yes, I cooked a three-course dinner with the larvae once. I had fly in soup as starter, tortellini a la larva as main and larve au chocolate as dessert.

Do you have a favorite bug-based meal?
It´s the larvae tomato risotto I always recommend: a lot of tomatoes mixed with wild rice and parboiled rice, a bit of Parmesan cheese and basil. It turns out as a delicious meal!

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New study. Blacks hospitalized for heart failure more often

Black patients with heart failure were more likely to be hospitalized for complications of the disease than whites with heart failure, a new study indicates.

They also tended to be younger and heavier, were less in shape and were more likely to have other significant health problems such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

However, black heart failure patients were just as likely to die from heart-related causes as whites. Researchers said weight and coexisting diseases may play a larger role in the risk of death than race.

"The main difference between the two groups was in rehospitalization risk," said Dr. Robert Mentz, a cardiology researcher at Duke University in Durham, N.C., who led the new study.

However, it was unclear why blacks with heart failure were hospitalized more often, he added.

The findings are based on a second look at data from a larger study, known as HF-ACTION, a controlled trial designed to see if exercise training helps people with heart failure live longer. That study compared standard care for patients with heart failure to standard care plus an exercise training program involving a treadmill or stationary bicycle. REUTERS

During the study, about 18 percent of black patients died and 67 percent were hospitalized. About 16 percent of white patients died and 62 percent were hospitalized. / GETTY IMAGES

Years

2.5

For the current report, the original study participants were followed for about two-and-a-half years.

Patients

2.3K

More than 2,300 patients in the United States, Canada and France participated in HF-ACTION.

Poll: Americans want to live longer, but not by too much

Report. U.S. citizens would like to live to 90, but 100 or 120? No way.

How long would you like to live — 100 years? Maybe 120? Would extended life spans be good for society, the economy and the way people go through their lives?

With populations aging and medical science progressing, questions like these are moving from the science-fiction category to the realm of long-term issues that ethicists and policymakers are starting to consider.

The Pew Research Center, a Washington-based think tank known for its surveys into political and social trends, published a report this week exploring views about "radical life extension" and its effects in the United States.

The median ideal lifespan mentioned in the poll of 2,012 people was 90 years, about 11 years longer than the current average U.S. life expectancy of 78.7 years. / GETTY IMAGES

Refuse

56%

Some 56 percent said they would refuse medical treatment to extend their lives, 38 percent would take it and the rest didn't answer. But 68 percent thought that other people would seize the opportunity.

Available

79%

Some 79 percent said life extension should be available to all, 66 percent thought only the rich would have access to it and another 66 percent feared scientists would offer the treatment before fully understanding its effects.

Entitled "Living to 120 and Beyond", the report said that "many Americans do not look happily on the prospect of living much longer lives."

Black and Hispanic Americans are more positive than whites about extending life. REUTERS

Risky prep

Scientists to make mutant forms of new bird flu

Scientists are to create mutant forms of the H7N9 bird flu virus that has emerged in China so they can gauge the risk of it becoming a lethal pandemic.

The genetic modification work will result in highly transmissible and deadly forms of H7N9 being made in several high-security laboratories around the world, but it is vital to prepare for the threat, the scientists say.

The new bird flu virus has already infected at least 133 people in China and Taiwan, killing 43 of them, according to the latest World Health Organization data.

Announcing plans to start controversial experiments, leading virologists Ron Fouchier and Yoshihiro Kawaoka said H7N9's pandemic risk would rise "exponentially" if it gained the ability to spread easily among people. REUTERS

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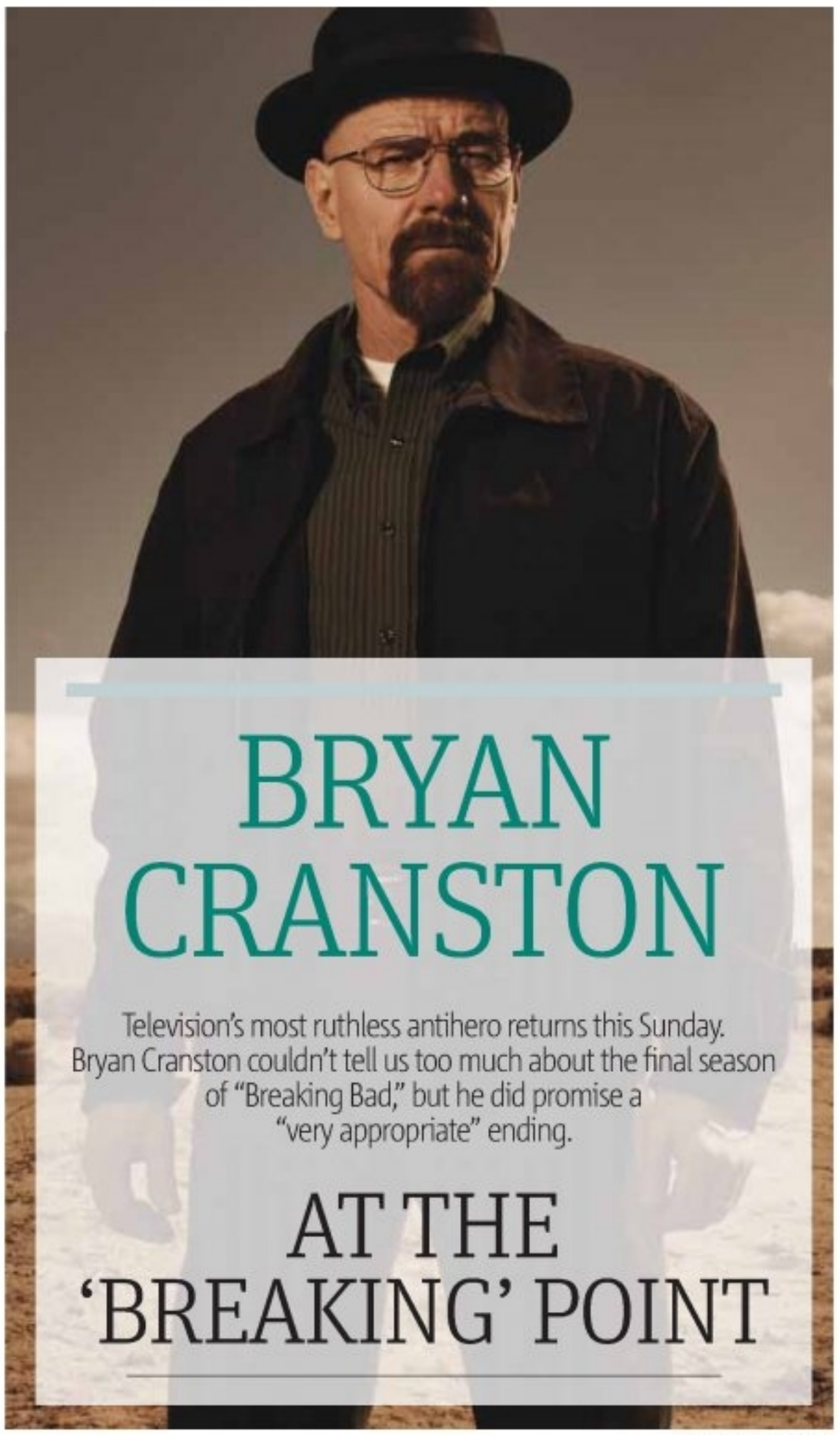
CULTURE

On Skyler

'She wanted to protect her family.'

There's a lot of backlash on the show against Skyler. Will she be redeemed, in a sense, in these final eight episodes?

You know, to me, when I look objectively, I've always liked Skyler, because the reason she had [issues] with Walt was because Walt was lying to her. She wanted to protect her family. ... Fans were rooting for him and ... she represented an obstacle for his success. ... It really puts an ambiguity in the hearts and souls of the audience. [They're] going, "Wait a minute, what am I rooting for? Why am I rooting for this man?" It fills them with anxiety. There's drama in the show as well as in the audience. It's pretty amazing.



BRYAN CRANSTON

Television's most ruthless antihero returns this Sunday. Bryan Cranston couldn't tell us too much about the final season of "Breaking Bad," but he did promise a "very appropriate" ending.

AT THE 'BREAKING' POINT

FRANK OCKENFELS 3/AMC

It might have been the most epic bathroom break in television history.

If you're not caught up on "Breaking Bad," you might want to stop reading here. But if you are caught up, you know that last season's cliffhanging finale ended with DEA agent Hank Schrader picking up some very special reading material while on the toilet — evidence to incriminate his brother-in-law, Walter White, for orchestrating the drug ring Schrader has had his eyes on since the first season.

While you might have been waiting with baited breath to find out what happens when Hank comes out of that bathroom, Bryan Cranston tells Metro he wasn't.

"I didn't ask for the whole year," says Cranston, who has played the series' lead Walter White since 2008.

He says he only got the script about two weeks before the episode began shooting. "I don't need to have a lot of information in my head."

Fans won't have to wait much longer to discover what happens next, as the series returns for its final eight episodes beginning Sunday. Cranston himself was mum about the series finale when we spoke to him last month. But he did share plenty of insight into a series he calls a "cautionary tale," about a man whose hunger for power just couldn't be satiated.

So, how are you feeling these days — happy, excited, sad, nervous?
Go on, you're hitting them all. Yeah, you know, we're proud that we were able to get the support from Sony and AMC to be able to write the conclusion that [creator Vince Gilligan] wanted, in the amount of episodes that he felt was appropriate. He was able to do these last eight episodes without feeling like he was diluting the storyline or compressing it so much. He felt it flowed just right, so we're very happy with that.

How many people know the ending right now?
Maybe about 20. It's gonna go up to about 200. … There are several things that happen, as you might guess, in the last eight — many twists and turns that you will gasp at.

It feels like it can't end well for Walt.
I don't know if it ends badly or not. You're fishing, aren't you?

All right, all right. But last Walt was seen, he was out of the business and about to get his life back on track. That must be wishful thinking.
Yeah, I mean, it is "Breaking Bad," so what happens in these last eight is what's happened in the previous 54 episodes, or whatever the case is — that we go through unapologetically. [We] tell our stories as honestly as we can and present it to fans. And it's been overwhelming, from critics and audiences alike, that it's resonating.

Yeah, why do you think that is? People from all walks of life really connect to this show.
Well, I think because it's honest. We're exploring sociopolitical relationships. Some people were gleaning that, "Oh, this is a condemnation of the medical care system in the United States, because here's a man who is a teacher, and a well educated man, and he cannot provide for his family." … We are telling this story in that manner that is resonating with people because it's not about drug manufacturing or drug usage; this story is about decisions that people make and the slippery slope that [can] happen.

Aaron Paul, left, and Bryan Cranston star in "Breaking Bad." / URSULA COYOTE

Inside Walt's mind

Turning the knob

Which Walt is harder for you to tap into: cancer-patient family man or merciless Heisenberg?
Neither, to be honest with you. … I know that there's less than savory characteristics in my being and I have to let that out. … Whether it's anger or jealously or resentment or whatever negative components [of your] personality, you have to admit it. … And then you say, well, let's turn the knob and allow that to become the worst case scenario.

You did some directing in this final season. Does that mean you had any say into Walt's trajectory?
No. What happens in an ongoing series is that the person created the show and develops the sensibility with the actors and then the actors perform it. When that person then sees what the actors have done and the way they approach a certain problem or issue or how they respond to different people, it can influence how they write that character again. So basically it goes back and forth. Vince Gilligan wrote it, I interpret it, I perform it, he sees what I perform, makes some adjustments to what he writes, and then writes closer to what I'm doing or pushes me in an area that he wants me to go in. We work off each other.

Are you happy with Walt's ending?
I'm very pleased. You know, there was apprehension of reading the last episode because once you read the last episode, there's no more episodes to read — it's just like, whoa, I don't want it to end. But I can honestly say that fans of our show will be very pleased, very satisfied with the outcome. It's very "Breaking Bad" — unapologetic and very appropriate. We cover it all. I can tell you this: There's not going to be a sense of, "Wait a minute, what?" That's not going to be the case with "Breaking Bad."

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Yeah, b—! It's time for the finale!

Paul says Sunday's premiere is "a violent punch to the throat." / FRANK OCKENFELS, AMC

TV. Aaron Paul's days as conflicted protege Jesse Pinkman are winding down.

Aaron Paul has won two Emmys for his acting chops, so it's no surprise he was able to fool us into believing that the cast of "Breaking Bad" had filmed 12 different endings for the critically acclaimed series and that he was unsure which of these would make it to air.

But jokes aside, Paul says he does know how his character, the drug-dealer-with-a-conscience Jesse Pinkman, ends his run in these final eight episodes, and that he's happy with the outcome.

"As a whole I'm very pleased," he tells Metro, saying that it's hard to discuss his character's final moments without giving anything away. It's also a challenge for the actor to admit that the series has come to an end.

"I think [I've] kinda moved past the mourning, or maybe not — maybe I'm just in denial," he says with a laugh. "I'm really excited for people to see what the writers have come up with. You're gonna be stoked."

While he won't reveal too much about the show's final season, he does tell fans to expect the same level — if not more — of darkness they've come to expect from the show. And now, with the end approaching, everything's at a heightened pace.

"I think the first episode of the final eight, that's a violent punch to throat," Paul says, "and it just never slows down. We all know how the season ended last year, so it pretty much starts right where it left off, and it's a constant, brutal sprint to the finish line."

It's been a whirlwind of a ride for Paul's character, a complex young man who was always "in search of guidance," he says.

He's also a character who originally was never meant to last beyond Season 1.

As Paul has told it, Jesse was supposed to lead Walter White into the drug trade and then get killed. The show would have focused on Walt exacting revenge for Jesse's death.

It's hard to imagine "Breaking Bad" without one of its central characters, but Paul is convinced the show would have still been a hit without him.

"I would have been a huge fan," he says. "I would have been proud of those few episodes."

The series might be drawing to a close, but things aren't going downhill for Paul. He's basking in the glow of being a newlywed, to activist Lauren Parsekian ("I'm a blessed man — she's the greatest woman on the planet," he tells us), and of being nominated for another Emmy. This year, he's up against co-star Jonathan Banks, who played cleanup specialist Mike Ehrmantraut. Paul says he's wholeheartedly rooting for his co-star.

"To see him standing up on that stage, that right there is a dream of mine," Paul says. "I was already lucky enough to win two."

Quoted

"You would like to think that he is the moral compass. But if you really think about it, he was a drug dealer and he's a murderer. ... You hope that Jesse kinda comes out of this, but you know, who knows?"

Paul, on Jesse in "Breaking Bad"

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A place in the 'Sun' for this Brit actor

Premiere. Lennie James is the bad cop in AMC's new "Low Winter Sun."

Detective Joe Geddes is a man who is finding himself in more ways than one. The new AMC cop drama, "Low Winter Sun," pairs Geddes, played by English actor Lennie James, with fellow Detroit detective Frank Agnew, played by another British actor, Mark Strong ("Green Lantern," "Zero Dark Thirty"). The pair murders a corrupt colleague, leaving Geddes searching to regain his moral center — but, alas, he and Agnew are assigned to find the murderer.

"He's trying to rescue himself and the rescue begins with the death of his partner, whom he kills," James says of Geddes. "He has been letting himself down for years and is trying to live up to his own expectations. He has a strong moral center and he's acted against it for far too long."

"Low Winter Sun" is based on a British miniseries of the same name, reset in Detroit. It's far from a conventional cop drama, buddy saga or whodunit.

"We know who did it," says James. "Then, those two cops are put in place of investigating the crime they've committed. Our story is also about two guys unsolving a case as opposed to solving it."

James' early career included playing the bungling would-be criminal in Guy Ritchie's "Snatch," and more recently included roles in "The Walking Dead" and last year's Guy Pearce-starring "Lockout."

"Low Winter Sun," starring Lennie James, premieres on AMC Sunday at 10 p.m. / ALICIA GBUR, AMC

Quoted

"The first step onto the road to redemption is an heinous act of violence, which for an actor is just gravy. It's what you want to play."

James, on why he likes his character in "Low Winter Sun"

James says he's played many cops, but Geddes and his inner journey to salvation — not to mention this turnaround on the good cop-bad cop story — was a juicy role he relished.

"The first step onto the road to redemption is an heinous act of violence, which for an actor is just gravy," says James. "It's what you want to play; the more complex the character, the more difficult the situations. I'm someone who gets bored very quickly, so I like to be interested. This one, you can't drop the ball — there's a tension that exists in this story that you can't let sag. This job has taken some proper lifting [an English colloquialism for tackling hard work] and I enjoyed that a lot."

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Motor City

The 'Wire' effect

Will "Low Winter Sun" do for beleaguered Detroit what "The Wire" did for the resurgence of Baltimore? "Detroit is not just one of the characters; it's a major character in this story," emphasizes James. "If your police force, who are sworn to protect and serve, are killing each other in vats of water, it says something about your city. It says something about your people."

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Here's that Cate Blanchett, Sally Hawkins and Andrew Dice Clay film you wanted. / SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Woody Allen flick. "Blue Jasmine" is a thrillingly uneasy mix of comedy and drama — with Andrew Dice Clay

With a few significant exceptions ("Manhattan," "Hannah and Her Sisters"), Woody Allen has maintained a thick wall separating his dramas from his comedies. One of the most likable things about "Blue Jasmine," his 43 1/3 directorial work, is that it's never one or the other. The subject is serious, tracking the fall and potential rise of a disgraced Manhattan socialite (Cate Blanchett).

But the tone wavers between drama and (light) comedy — not in a clumsy way but in the manner of a confident master who isn't always this confident but should be.

Blanchett's Jasmine is first glimpsed talking an old lady's ear off, first on a plane, then in baggage check.

Her yammering only gradually seems like a joke as the sequence wears on. Only afterward does it become apparent it's no joke: Jasmine has been presenting a watered-down version of the tragic events periodically glimpsed in flashback, one that turns her into a helpless martyr. Sometimes she talks to no one.

The whole film walks that line, between comedy and tragedy. After her moneyed husband (Alec Baldwin) is busted for Madoff-like shenanigans, the absolutely broke Jasmine flies — first class — to the tight San Francisco apartment of her poor sister Ginger (Sally Hawkins).

While trying to start anew, first by finding work, then by trying to find another sugar daddy, her ambitious streak rubs off on Ginger, who has a thing for blue-collar palookas, played by Andrew Dice Clay and Bobby Cannavale.

That Andrew Dice Clay is a) in a Woody Allen film, b) playing Sally Hawkins' husband, in scenes opposite Blanchett and Baldwin, and c) rather moving speaks to "Blue Jasmine"'s bizarre and weirdly smooth blend of tones. (Louis C.K. later swings by as a randy stereo salesman.)

Review

'Blue Jasmine'

Director: Woody Allen

Stars: Cate Blanchett, Sally Hawkins

Rating: PG-13

After his own specific, never-quite-matched breed of neurotic one-liners, Allen's most eccentric cinematic gift is a knack for deliberate, gradual pacing, wherein he leisurely strolls through a complex, twisty plot. His patience proves hugely rewarding, even when — as in the underrated "Cassandra's Dream" — the material is second-rate. The same thing happens here, only the wobbly tone gives it an extra level of excitement.

This is Allen's most ambitious film in ages, if not always his smoothest. The flashbacks can be artlessly integrated, while there's an undercurrent of distaste for the working class, with those characters as babbling grotesques. Of course, there's also distaste for the wealthy. As it becomes ultimately apparent, there's no way out for anyone.

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Image: Detail from Ezra Jack Keats, "Crunch, crunch, crunch, his feet sank into the snow." Final illustration for The Snowy Day, 1962. Collage and paint on board. Ezra Jack Keats Papers, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi. Copyright Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

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A have defending the have-nots

Interview.
"Elysium"'s Matt Damon talks getting buff and voting against his self-interests.

When Matt Damon saw himself on-screen in "Elysium" — after months of dieting and four-hour gym sessions to get him into sci-fi action hero shape — all he could do was laugh.

"It just looked ridiculous to me," he says. "It's so indulgent, but it's part of the magic trick. I understood why [director Neill Blomkamp] needed me to look like that to establish the character. He didn't want any fat on me because he said, 'I want you to look almost Haitian, like you're incredibly fit, but you've been working so hard and perhaps you've missed some meals.'"

While it worked for the film, Damon was happy to let the workout regimen lapse.

"It's just not a natural way for somebody to look. These people who look that way are either genetic freaks or they're just living in a gym," he says.

"[My wife] was fine with me buff, but she was fine with me [40 pounds overweight] on 'The Informant!' I think she likes variety."

While he might not find it easy to relate to the look of his character, Max — an ex-con factory worker taking on the rich and powerful on their satellite sanctuary, Elysium, orbiting the ravaged slum Earth has become — he can at least understand him emotionally and intellectually. "He's doing the best he can in a world that's getting increasingly difficult to live in," Damon says.

"A lot of people can relate to that in this prolonged economic downturn, where it feels like the world keeps putting its boot on your neck a little more forcefully every day."

Another view

How the other half lives

As for relating to the have-nots, like his character in the film? "F— them," Damon offers, with a laugh. "No, at least in my case, I think the values that I have are consistent with the values I was raised with. I vote against my own self-interests constantly. If you're born with a silver spoon in your mouth, you're probably more likely to be the Koch brothers and think that you shouldn't pay taxes on things."

Speaking of the current state of the world, Damon has never been one to shy away from addressing political issues, and "Elysium" offers him a great chance to talk immigration — one of the major themes in the film.

"Look, it's a nation of immigrants and I'm from a family of immigrants, so yeah, clearly they're going to have to figure that one out," he says.

"But the politicians don't talk about it at all. They just see it as an issue where with the polling on it, they're just confused on which way to go. So the Republicans just send out Marco Rubio to speak Spanish to everybody."

Not to suggest, though, that Damon thinks he has all the answers: "I don't have a comprehensive immigration plan, no," he says. "But I can work on it."

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Matt Damon plays a have-not trying to survive in "Elysium." / WIREIMAGE

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‘Elysium’ is better when it’s dumb

Political gore fest. The “District 9” director does more of the same, but with Matt Damon.

A part-robot Matt Damon wields a futuristic gun in “Elysium.” / KIMBERLEY FRENCH

Review

‘Elysium’

Director: Neill Blomkamp

Stars: Matt Damon, Sharlto Copley

Rating: R

If at first you succeed, try again. “Elysium,” filmmaker Neill Blomkamp’s swollen Hollywood cash-in for “Direct 9,” is more or less the same thing: a blunt political parable involving outer space that turns delightfully gory, plus involves a souped-up man-machine. Like “District 9” and its send-up of apartheid South Africa, “Elysium” — a look at chasmal class divide — isn’t deep thinking, nor a rock-solid treatise. It’s maximalist politicizing — big and sloppy, and distracting enough to take one’s mind off shortcomings of its polemic.

The premise goes “Blade Runner” one further: Instead of a grim future where the rich live far above the surface, in “Elysium” everyone has gone outside our orbit, dwelling in the titular satellite, which looks like a spinning Beverly Hills. Poor minorities remain on an arid Earth, although our hero is a Caucasian Matt Damon with a vaguely Mexican name. After suffering radiation poisoning at his crap job, Damon’s Max DeCosta tries to sneak up to Elysium, where any and all wounds/diseases/lesions are swiftly healed.

In “District 9,” Blomkamp ran into irksome territory by including among the baddies black South Africans. Here, he fixes that: DeCosta gets involved with shady Latinos, who when pressed turn out to be more selfless and heroic than him. “District 9”’s Sharlto Copley soon reappears, this time as the main antagonist. (Jodie Foster plays Elysium’s cold-blooded Secretary of Defense, but does little but stare at screens and speak in an unplaceable — South African maybe? — accent.) Copley is almost as manic as he was in the first film, only this time his unpredictable, unpolished schtick is used for an unsettling combination of anarchism and self-interest.

This, like “District 9,” is all building to a climax where whatever smart and topical messages it meant to convey take a backseat to awe-inspiring destruction. This is a good thing. Blomkamp is a shallow, if sometimes daring, thinker, but exponentially superior at devising oddly beautiful ways to destroy human bodies. People don’t just die in a Blomkamp film — they burst into bloody messes. DeCosta’s arc, learning to care about more than himself, is stock, but the script knows how to milk its genre (if not political) ideas in inventive ways. (Rarely has the idea of bringing back a presumed-dead character been this inspired.) Like “District 9,” “Elysium” is thrilling when it turns off its brain and just blows stuff (or rather, people) up real good.

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Everyone says they love him

Interviews. The cast of "Blue Jasmine" talks about Woody Allen's unusual directing methods.

Woody Allen, center, directs Cate Blanchett and Alec Baldwin (back turned) on the set of "Blue Jasmine." / SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

When she was being courted to play the fallen Manhattan socialite lead in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine," Cate Blanchett talked to the filmmaking legend for, by her calculations, three minutes. Then she read the script. Then they talked for 45 more seconds. The third time they spoke was when shooting started.

With Peter Sarsgaard, who plays a minor role in the film, Allen was even more concise. They talked for 45 seconds. Then they saw each other on set.

Louis C.K. auditioned for one role: A tough guy part for which he was, to say the least, not appropriate. ("I just wanted to meet [Allen]," C.K. admits. "I thought he wouldn't pick me. But I'd get to meet him — before he dies.") He went in to talk to Allen and read the role. It didn't go well, but he was instead offered another, smaller part. The news came not from Allen himself, but from an envelope delivered to his house. Inside were his character's three scenes — and no others. He had 40 minutes to read them before they were sent back.

None of this is surprising. Allen is infamous for his oddly ultra-secretive production methods. He never allows actors to see the full scripts (unless, like Blanchett, they're in nearly every scene). And he never tells his performers why he cast them.

"When I got the call that Louis had failed," jokes Andrew Dice Clay, who won C.K.'s original role, "I actually thought my manager was kidding. I never thought he could see past the persona I play on stage as a comic." But Allen put his trust in the dirty, '80s stand-up king, even if he rarely gave him specific comments. "I think the direction comes in his casting. He gets as close to the part on the page with the person, then he lets you really work with it."

Of course, the myth of Woody Allen, the impenetrable and mysterious artist who doesn't tell his actors anything, is a bit overstated. "Sometimes he would say to me, 'You kind of dumped that one. Let's try something better,'" C.K. remembers. "One thing he said that stuck with me was, 'That pause was too long for the audience.' That told me the audience was with him. He's already in the seats, watching the film with a crowd. Because he's a comedian."

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Quoted

"He's already in the seats, watching the film with a crowd. Because he's a comedian."
Louis C.K., on Woody Allen

In their corner

C.K. wasn't the only one who got brutally honest comments.

- "The thing he would say to me was, 'The audience has already left the theater,'" says Blanchett, with a smile. "Or, 'You sound like an actor saying lines,'" adds Sarsgaard, laughing. "That's awful."

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David Gordon Green takes a weed break

Indie. The "Pineapple Express" director goes small again with "Prince Avalanche."

Emile Hirsch and Paul Rudd play bickering construction workers in David Gordon Green's "Prince Avalanche." / MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Review

'Prince Avalanche'

Director: David Gordon Green

Stars: Paul Rudd, Emile Hirsch

Rating: R

Filmmaker David Gordon Green's tastes run wide. He's obviously in love with Terrence Malick, but he also wrote the enthusiastic foreword to "Seagalogy," an epic, film-by-film doorstop study of Steven Seagal. His segue from Malick copycat to director of stoner comedies may have been unexpected. But it illustrated an even less expected development: The magnificent "George Washington" excepted, his weed films ("Pineapple Express," "Your Highness" and the simply slovenly "The Sitter") are in many ways superior to his serious ones ("All the Real Girls," "Undertow" and "Snow Angels").

The two extremes of Green's personality are nearly balanced in "Prince Avalanche," which is at once a bros-before-hos dude comedy and a hypnotic, melancholic portrayal of solitude. Paul Rudd and Emile Hirsch play construction workers spending their summer as nearly the only crew repairing a wooded stretch of highway in central Texas that was destroyed by wildfire. Rudd, with mustache, is comically serious; Hirsch, with shaggy '70s locks, is comically not. They inevitably bicker, especially once Hirsch's sister, whom Rudd was dating, dumps him.

Rudd envisions himself as something he's not. He has an antiquated idea of what a man should be (as witness the facial hair, which is not Williamsburg ironic). At heart, he's as much a boy as Hirsch, who often ditches or half-asses his duties and wants no more than to party. Hirsch, too, has a false self-image — he's more of a sad sack than he'd ever admit. (A talented actor, Hirsch has never given a more filled-out, satisfying turn.) The chief sense of fun comes from watching them discombobulate, eventually with the aid of drink.

Loosely based on the Icelandic film "Either Way," it's a strange hybrid, where slovenly, borderline Judd Apatow-esque behavior alternates with lengthy takes of men at work in nature. Every time "Prince Avalanche" threatens to tumble into indie cliches, Green pulls it back to something more abstract. Similarly, every time it threatens to OD on scenery-watching, the script pulls it back to traditional indie territory. It's a film of odd rhythms and textures, and one — like its two heroes — at war with itself in enjoyable and productive ways.

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Deep space done on the dirt cheap

Low-budget sci-fi. "Europa Report" depicts the reality of interstellar travel — from Brooklyn.

Films about outer space have eternally avoided accuracy, in large part because a purely realistic portrayal of space travel would be, for lack of a better word, boring. The low-budget "Europa Report" features a mission to Jupiter, escalating insanity, a repair job gone tragically awry, even a potentially belligerent alien beast. But even with these fantastical elements it stays resolutely fact-based and convincing, even if it's been crafted in such a way that the tedium of a lengthy employment isn't tedious to watch.

Indeed, the only images we see are of the fake found-footage variety. The mission — to investigate potential life on the titular moon — resulted, we're told early, in the deaths of the international crew, including Sharlto Copley, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"'s Michael Nyqvist and "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days"'s Anamaria Marinca. (A strangely credible Dan Fogler plays one of the scientists back on Earth.) They're glimpsed entirely through onboard cameras, including one that allows for "Real World"-esque confessionals. The film was shot not on some major studio lot, but in Brooklyn.

That "Europa Report" isn't boring is a small tragedy, actually, as a film about the wear of dozens of months trapped inside a cramped spaceship — even one stocked with an all-star cast of thespians — would be most welcome. (It would have to be handled by retired Hungarian long-take miserablist Bela Tarr, whose "Satantango" and "The Turin Horse" make time itself evaporate.) "Europa Report" is anxious about losing viewers' patience, cutting about madly between cameras, even periodically jumping around on its timeline right when things are settling into a monotonous groove. Its best parts aren't about its few thrills, but grumblings about wearing the same clothes every day or misplacing one's toothbrush.

What it is, ultimately, is a resourceful thriller, one that doesn't sacrifice brains for excitement. The cast does a fine job remaining unknowable — over-the-top personalities would ruin the verisimilitude — although some, like Marinca, seem downright zombielike until their own lives are put in danger. Ecuadorian director Sebastian Cordero ("Cronicas") impressively stays calm, but knows when to bust loose. A shocking mid-film death is a blood-curdling first-person depiction of what it's like to drift freely into the oblivion of space. The ending finally and perhaps belatedly provides the sense of awe that has been intentionally dampered by the allegiance to strict (or strict-ish) verisimilitude.

Review

'Europa Report'

Director: Sebastian Cordero

Stars: Sharlto Copley, Michael Nyqvist

Rating: PG-13

Christian Camargo plays one of the doomed astronauts in "Europa Report." / MAGNOLIA PICTURES

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On making a living eating fire and swallowing sharp swords

Circus. If Lurch and David Copperfield had a baby, it would be David Darwin.

Juggler David Darwin brings the heat. / PROVIDED

Where does a 6-foot-6 juggler juggle? Any place with high ceilings.

"High ceilings make my life good," says Philly juggler and sideshow performer David Darwin.

Darwin is a rising star — beyond his height — of the city's sideshow arts scene. He has a few appearances on national TV under his belt, including performing "Bend Me, Shape Me" on guitar with his legs behind his head on "Last Call with Carson Daly," and a steady stream of gigs in the region.

"I make a pretty good income performing, but I'm not a good businessman," says Darwin, a Jersey native. "I don't market myself as good as I should ... but the phone rings and I answer it."

He's tall, dark and irreverent, kind of like Lurch meets David Copperfield, with a deadpan sense of humor. He considers himself a juggler at his core and often attends the Monday meetings of the Philadelphia Juggling Club near the Art Museum.

"The vast majority there are hobbyists — they're really hard-core amateur jugglers who are way better than I am," he says.

Darwin supplements his act with sideshow spectacles such as walking on glass, sword-swallowing, fire-eating and whip-cracking. It's a family show at Grasso's, but edgy nevertheless. "I push my luck a lot further than with most family audiences," Darwin says. "I'm not trying to shock you. I say calm down ... this is fun and this is how it works."

If you go

David Darwin

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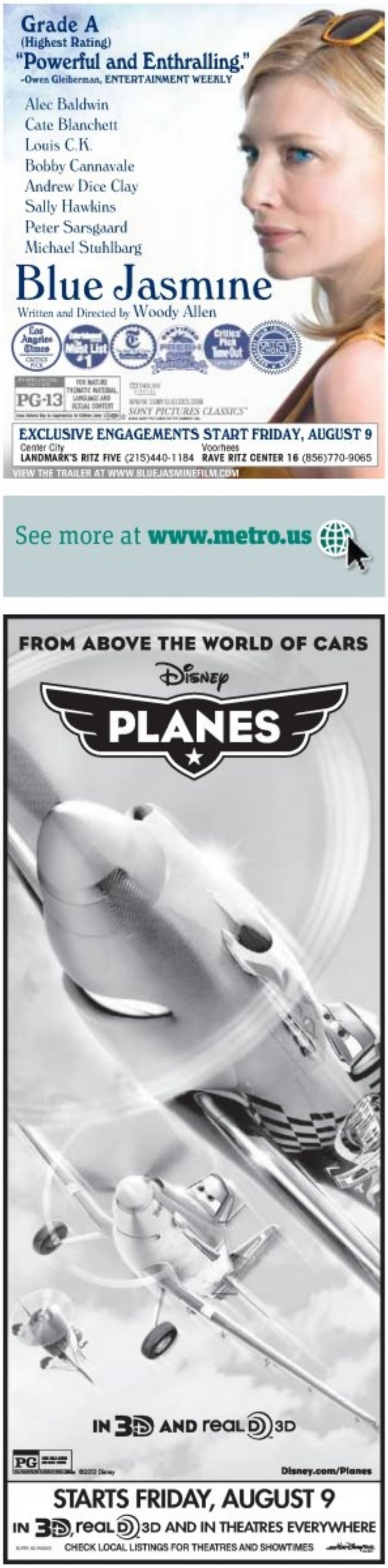

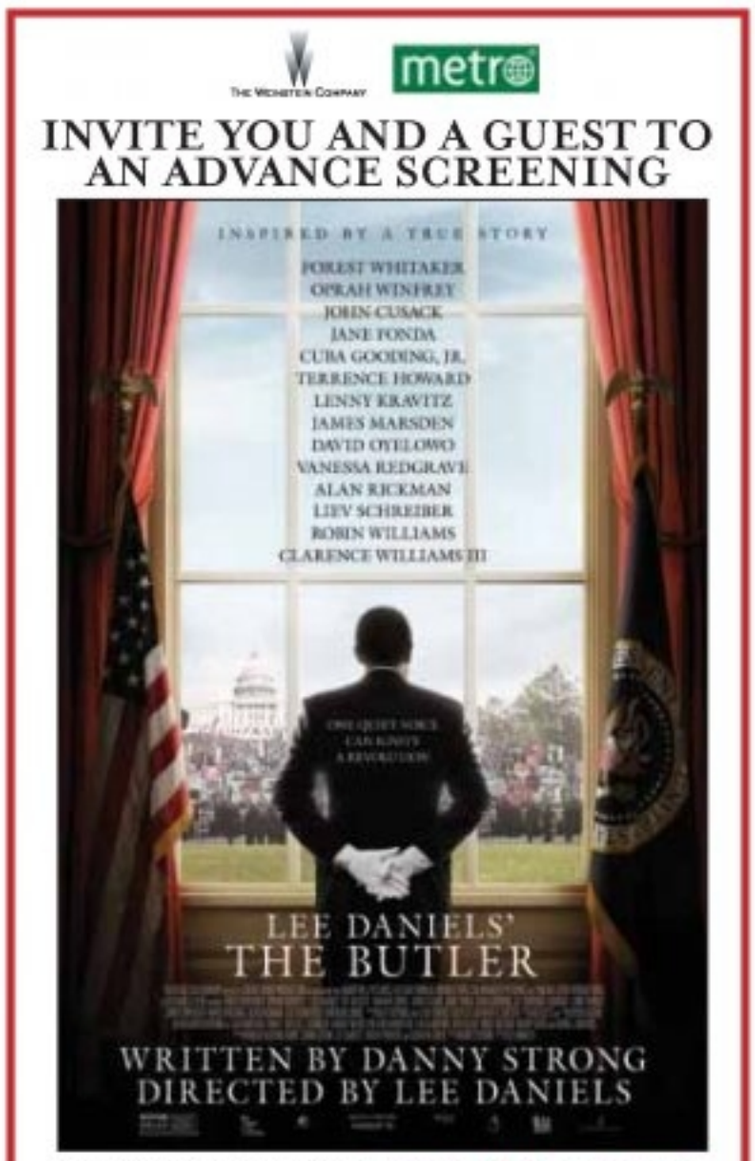
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DESPICABLE ME 2 (PG) Fri 9:55, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 12:25-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:55-12:25-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ELYSIUM (R) 11:20, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ELYSIUM: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:05, 11:40. Digital Presentation;IMAX; Sun 10:00-12:40-3:30-6:20-9:05. Digital Presentation;IMAX
FRUITVALE STATION (R) 9:40, 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:15.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
GROWN UPS 2 (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (PG) 10:30, 1:15, 7:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS IN 3D (PG) 4:15, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
PLANES (PG) 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 7:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PLANES IN 3D (PG) 9:30, 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE SMURFS 2 IN 3D (PG) 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE SMURFS 2 (PG) 10:10, 11:15, 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 5:00, 6:30, 7:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00. Digital Presentation;SFF-Sensory Friendly Film
TURBO (PG) 9:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WE'RE THE MILLERS (R) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:15, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:15-5:10-7:45-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLVERINE IN 3D (PG-13) 4:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE WOLVERINE (PG-13) 10:00, 1:00, 7:10, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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BLOOD (NR) 1:00, 3:00, 7:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE CONJURING (R) Fri and Sat 10:35, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35, 11:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:35-1:35-4:35-7:35-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DESPICABLE ME 2 (PG) 10:30, 1:05, 6:45, 9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DESPICABLE ME 2 IN 3D (PG) 3:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
ELYSIUM (R) Fri and Sat 9:40, 11:40, 12:40, 2:40, 3:40, 5:40, 6:40, 8:40, 9:40, 11:40, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:40-11:40-12:40-2:40-3:40-5:40-6:40-8:40-9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ELYSIUM: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40. Digital Presentation;IMAX
FRUITVALE STATION (R) Fri and Sat 9:50, 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35, 11:55.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:50-12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
GROWN UPS 2 (PG-13) 11:45, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HEAT (R) 5:15, 8:05, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
KEVIN HART: LET ME EXPLAIN (R) 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
LOVELACE (R) Fri and Sat 11:15, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45, 12:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:15-2:00-4:35-7:10-9:45. Digital Presentation
MONSTERS UNIVERSITY (G) 10:35, 4:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MONSTERS UNIVERSITY 3D (G) 1:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
PACIFIC RIM (PG-13) 1:10, 8:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PACIFIC RIM IN 3D (PG-13) Fri and Sat 4:05, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 4:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (PG) 10:00, 12:50, 3:35, 6:30, 9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS IN 3D (PG) 11:25, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
PLANES (PG) Fri and Sat 10:10, 12:45, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:10-12:45-3:30-6:10-8:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PLANES IN 3D (PG) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
RED 2 (PG-13) 5:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE SMURFS 2 IN 3D (PG) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE SMURFS 2 (PG) Fri 10:05, 12:00, 1:00, 2:45, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00. Digital Presentation;SFF-Sensory Friendly Film; Sat 10:05-12:10-1:00-2:45-4:00-7:00-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-12:00-1:00-2:45-4:00-7:00-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
TURBO (PG) 9:45, 12:20, 3:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WAY, WAY BACK (PG-13) 7:05, 9:50.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WE'RE THE MILLERS (R) Fri and Sat 10:50, 1:35, 4:30, 7:20, 9:00, 10:10, 11:50, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 12:30-3:20-6:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-1:35-4:30-7:20-9:00-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLVERINE IN 3D (PG-13) 10:15, 9:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE WOLVERINE (PG-13) 10:25, 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WORLD WAR Z (PG-13) 10:20, 5:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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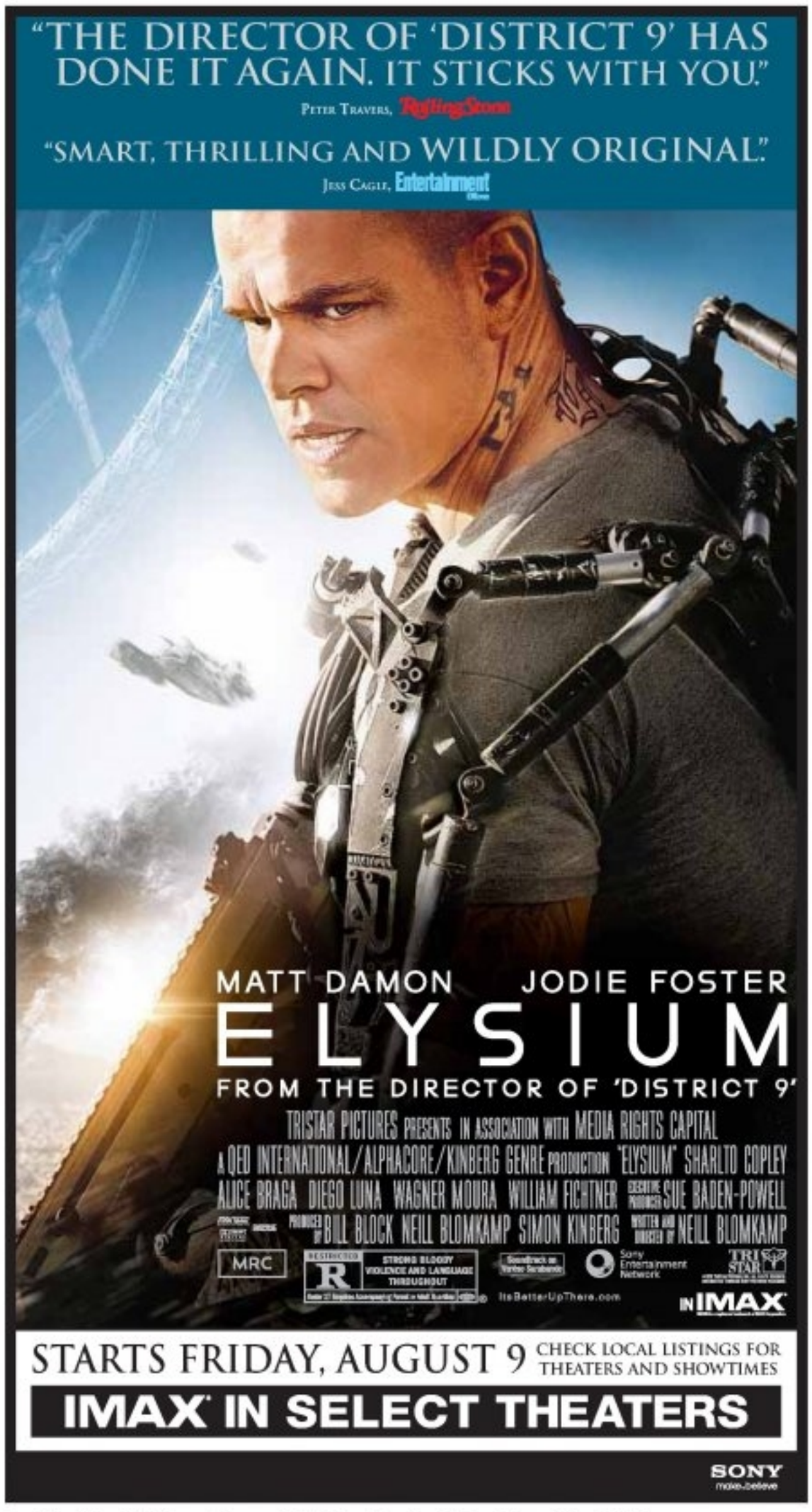
THE CONJURING (R) Fri and Sat 11:25, 2:20, 5:10, 8:05, 10:55, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:25-2:20-5:10-7:55-10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DESPICABLE ME 2 (PG) 11:10, 1:55, 4:35, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DESPICABLE ME 2 IN 3D (PG) 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
ELYSIUM (R) Fri and Sat 9:45, 12:00, 12:30, 2:45, 3:30, 5:30, 6:30, 8:30, 9:30, 11:30, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-12:00-12:30-2:45-3:30-5:30-6:30-8:30-9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ELYSIUM: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation;IMAX; Sun 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20. Digital Presentation;IMAX
FRUITVALE STATION (R) Fri and Sat 9:45, 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 6:50, 9:15, 11:40.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-12:00-2:15-4:35-6:50-9:15.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
GROWN UPS 2 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:25, 1:10, 3:45, 6:35, 9:20, 12:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PACIFIC RIM (PG-13) Fri and Sat 7:50, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 7:40-10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (PG) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00, 11:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS IN 3D (PG) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PLANES (PG) Fri and Sat 9:35, 12:05, 2:50, 5:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:35-12:05-2:50-5:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WAY, WAY BACK (PG-13) 2:00, 5:00.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WE'RE THE MILLERS (R) Fri and Sat 9:30, 10:20, 12:15, 1:15, 3:00, 4:15, 6:00, 7:15, 9:00, 10:15, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-10:20-12:15-1:15-3:00-4:15-6:00-7:15-9:00-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLVERINE IN 3D (PG-13) 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE WOLVERINE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:40, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 8:15, 10:30, 11:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:40-12:45-4:00-7:15-8:15-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WORLD WAR Z (PG-13) 10:10, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation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THE HEAT (R) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:30, 5:15, 8:10, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MAN OF STEEL (PG-13) 1:10, 7:15. Digital Presentation
MAN OF STEEL 3D (PG-13) 10:00, 4:10, 10:20. RealD 3D
RED 2 (PG-13) Fri 10:50, 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-1:50-4:45-7:45-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE SMURFS 2 IN 3D (PG) 11:15, 4:20, 9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE SMURFS 2 (PG) Fri and Sat 10:20, 12:45, 1:40, 3:15, 5:45, 6:45, 8:15, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-12:45-1:40-3:15-5:45-6:45-8:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THIS IS THE END (R) 11:45, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WE'RE THE MILLERS (R) 10:00, 11:00, 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 6:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLVERINE IN 3D (PG-13) Fri 10:10, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Fri 10:45. RealD 3D; Sat 10:10-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 10:25. RealD 3D; Sun 10:10-1:00-4:00-7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE WOLVERINE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:10, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00. Digital Presentation; 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:10-2:00-4:50-7:40. Digital Presentation
WORLD WAR Z (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

Although Ozzy Osbourne has sang the words to Black Sabbath songs, it was bassist Geezer Butler who has always written those words for the singer. Famously, Ozzy hasn't always understood them. Butler shares with a laugh that this dynamic still holds true today with the semi-reunited lineup's new album, "13," which to everyone's surprise, including the band members themselves, reached No. 1 on the charts — a first for the doomy hard rock band.

How does it feel to integrate these new songs with such classics?
It's good because we sort of wrote them in the same vein as we did the first three albums. So, they've been mixing pretty well.

A lot of the imagery that I'm seeing promoting the tour is that pilot with the mask from the "Never Say Die" album, which was the last full album with Ozzy back in the day. What was the reason for that?
I think probably seeing it on Iron Man in "The Avengers." That was sort of great because Robert Downey Jr. had that particular T-shirt on, so we saw that there was a particular amount of interest and it became a top-selling T-shirt in England, so we thought, "Cash in on it!"

What was recording like during those 1978 sessions? I would imagine it was a bit different from this time.
It wasn't good. That's why we don't really do anything from that album. We don't have very fond memories of that. We sort of didn't have any money. We had been fighting legal battles for two or three years and spent all the money on that, trying to get away from the management. And the band was in a really bad place at the time. So we basically sort of suffered because of that.

I'd imagine there were also a lot more drugs in the studio then, too.
Well, there was none this time. With the first three albums, we didn't have any drugs; we couldn't afford drugs anyways. With the second one, we didn't really have any time to do it. Maybe the third time we might have had a few spliffs here or there. Drugs didn't really kick in until about "Vol. 4." ... But this time, we just thought, "Let's get back to the basics, what we're good at, and do it that way." .

And it worked, apparently. You scored your first No. 1 album more than 40 years after your first album.
Yeah, it totally flabbergasted us. We really didn't expect No. 1.

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

If you go

Black Sabbath

Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m.
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Biggie the cat

Sabbath kitty sabbath

On Butler's personal website, he has adorable photos of his many cats. This doesn't seem very Black Sabbath, but what is even less Black Sabbath is that they're all named after rappers!

"Chingy was the first; Chingy and Nelly," recounts Butler. "Because we used to live in St. Louis, so we were naming them after St. Louis rappers and then kept adding to the family. So, then we had to expand outside of St. Louis, and that's where Snoop and Biggie and Em came from."

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Putting the punk in rock

Charisma. Hunx & His Punx don't care what you think. No, really.

Somewhere right now, an artist is trying really hard to make it in the world of professional rock music. And somewhere else, another really isn't.

Include Seth Bogart of California-based garage-punk band Hunx & His Punx in that second camp. The provocative, hilarious, flamboyantly gay rocker has just shrugged his way through another album in a way few artists would in this age of corporate calculation.

Clocking in at barely 20 minutes, "Street Punk" is a collection of short, insouciant splatters of music from Bogart and partner-in-crime Shannon Shaw that are amateurish even by punk standards. With entries like the surf-bopping, ethos-revealing "Born Blonde" and the 30-second inside-joke "Don't Call Me Fabulous," the album's carelessness offers an infectious window into what you might think of as annoying things that annoy annoying people. Sounds like punk rock, doesn't it?

"I think it's our bad attention spans mostly," says Bogart via phone from Los Angeles. "We wanted it to be shorter, but we had to put that really long song ['It's Not Easy'] at the end to make it an 'album.'"

Surely these are the kinds of songs that go over best in a live setting, where Bogart in his Hunx persona mocks and rocks fans with a raw brand of charisma. But most of the songs on "Street Punk" have never been played in front of audiences. In fact, Bogart reveals, the band plans on relearning most of them days before their first New York show.

"I don't really care," says Bogart, bringing to mind a theme that is starting to sound familiar. "I just like to get the spirit of them. The percentage of our fans that care if we sound good compared to those who just want to be entertained and see us get crazy is so little."

JONATHAN DONALDSON
letters@metro.us

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Seth Bogart clearly likes things neat and tidy. / CALI THORNHILL-DEWITT

Going solo

'Hairdresser Blues'

Like the title of his 2012 solo album suggests, Bogart had recently left his career as a hairdresser — no more appointments, no more coloring at Oakland's Down at Lulu's, where the singer worked for 10 years. "It just got old," he says. "I just didn't care what people wanted to look like anymore." The money from music gradually created enough of a safety net for Bogart to invest in other ventures, like his line of tasteless t-shirts — "Crotch Watchers Delights," for example.

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Creepy-crawlies

Science. Bug Fest is back. Who wants a chocolate chirp cookie?

For most travelers, returning from a trip carrying "a lot of bugs" would be the definition of a vacation nightmare. For Karen Verderame, it's just the opposite. "If I'm coming home with bugs," Verderame said earlier this week, following a brief sojourn to Arizona, "the trip was a success."

Verderame, an insect specialist at the Academy of Natural Sciences, hopes to instill the same excitement about creepy-crawly critters this weekend at the sixth annual Bug Fest, which features live bugs, roach races, an insect cook-off and hands-on activities for kids.

The theme of this year's festival is "Masters of Deception," focusing on insects that use camouflage and mimicry to hide from predators, whether imitating a leaf or a stick to merge with their surroundings or mimicking a bee or wasp to frighten potential antagonists.

"The way that insects have evolved to survive is amazing," Verderame said. "A great way to highlight that is by looking at the tactics of camouflage and mimicry. Bug Fest will give people the opportunity to see these guys up close and to really examine just how masterful they are at disguising and blending in."

Visitors to Bug Fest with adventurous palates will be able to taste a variety of insects that weren't successful enough at camouflaging themselves to avoid the kitchen of chef and entomologist Zack Lemann, who will offer dishes such as "chocolate chirp cookies" and go head to head in an "Iron Chef" style competition with Drexel University chef Chuck Ziccardi.

"What many people don't realize is that insects are extremely sustainable, very environmentally friendly and a very healthy alternative to a lot of other foods out there," Verderame explains. "There's so much more protein in insects than in any beef that you could eat." (See page 12 for more on the nutritious side of bugs.)

Verderame hopes that Bug Fest will change people's negative perceptions of its subjects.

"Our goal is to get people excited about the world of insects," she said. "We hope that we're igniting a passion for insects in people that will carry on and maybe help make more fans of bugs out there."

SHAUN BRADY
letters@metro.us

If you go

Bug Fest 2013

Aug. 10-11
The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, 1900 Ben Franklin Pkwy.
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That's one big bug. Check out the jungle nymph at the Academy of Natural Sciences. / ANSP

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Special equipment: You'll need 10 (12-inch) skewers. Be sure to soak wooden skewers in water for at least 30 minutes beforehand to keep them from burning on the grill.

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To learn how to make avocado-corn-tomato salsa, head to www.chow.com. / CHOW.COM

Recipe. Grilled Shrimp Tacos

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice (from about 2 medium limes)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 teaspoons chipotle powder
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 pounds peeled and deveined large shrimp (about 45 shrimp)
- 10 (12-inch) skewers (soak wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes to avoid burning on the grill)
- 16 grilled or warmed corn tortillas

1 Heat an outdoor grill to high (about 450°F to 550°F). Meanwhile, assemble the shrimp. Whisk the lime juice, oil, chipotle powder, salt and cumin together in a large bowl. Add the shrimp and toss to combine.

2 Skewer each shrimp through the tail and head ends, leaving about 1/4 inch of space between each shrimp. Transfer the skewers to a baking sheet.

3 Place the skewers in a single layer on the grill without touching. Close the grill and cook until grill marks appear, about four minutes. Flip the skewers, close the grill and cook until the shrimp are just firm, about one minute more. Transfer the skewers to a clean baking sheet.

4 Remove and discard the skewers, transfer the shrimp to a cutting board and coarsely chop. Place in a serving bowl.

5 Serve the shrimp with the tortillas and salsa.

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THE WORD

Alexandra Cavallo takes on the world of gossip.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
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alexandra.cavallo@metro.us

1 Charlie's Anal-gels

In "well, duh" news, TMZ reports that the three new additions to Charlie Sheen's harem, uh, bevy of women known as "Charlie's Angels" are former porn stars. Former hardcore porn stars. I don't find this to be particularly noteworthy because, um, what other kind of woman thinks that it's a pro move to sign up to serve as one of that loon's many fun-holes? If you were to tell me that they were former elementary school teachers or, say, members of the Senate, that would be news.

But no, they're former porn stars. On a side note, isn't it kind of weird that any person who has had sex on camera for money is referred to as a porn "star"? That's like calling Tori Spelling (am I aging myself here? Insert current D-List actor) a movie star. Porn makers, sure. Porn actors, if I'm being generous. Anyway, I digress.

The three new ladies are Jayme Langford, Jana Jordan and Celeste Star. Langford is perhaps best known for her roles in "Power Munch 3 and 5" which, OK, are great porn titles. You had me at Power Munch.

CHARLIE SHEEN / WIREIMAGE

Justin Bieber reportedly instigated a bar beating. / REDFERNS VIA GETTY IMAGES

2 Bieber brawl

Oh man. Last week I reported that Justin Bieber was denied access to a Meatpacking District nightclub for being too young (for being too terrible). This week, however, it appears that the boy wonder managed to talk (pay) his way into a Southampton nightclub. And then promptly got kicked out for inciting a major brawl.

[Note: When I write "major brawl" I'm imagining Bieber and his "posse" in LA Lights sneakers (I don't know why, just 'cause) and skinned knees, wrestling with another gang of ornery tykes, on a playground somewhere.]

But, actually, it was a lot more serious than that. Bieber, who is apparently on a one-man mission to both prove that he's "hard" and ruin his career, reportedly ordered his bodyguards to beat up a man identified as Wayne Rennalls, who ended up in the hospital with a black eye and bruised ribs.

Who is running this kid's PR team/in charge of wrangling him? Really, I'd like to know. Because they're either very bad at their job or they're on their own mission to destroy the Biebs from the inside. In the case of the latter scenario — carry on.

3 Russell Brand has loose lips

We all do it. There is not one person among us who — unless you're some preternatural super-being of chastity and light — while in bed with their significant other, has not let their mind stray to the naked body of another.

Monogamy is hard, you guys, and sometimes a little harmless fantasy makes the same-old routine of doing the horizontal soft shoe with our beloved just a little less ... same-old.

It's the little white lie of sexual congress but, like Fight Club, the first rule of fantasizing outside of your relationship is that you don't talk about it.

Russell Brand did not get that memo. Or, he got it, rolled it up and smoked drugs out of it. At a recent stand-up gig, Brand joked "I'd be having sex thinking, 'Think of anyone, anyone else.'" This was insult for the sake of comedy, so it can be forgiven. Unless, of course, you're Katy Perry.

Chris Brown might quit music. / GETTY IMAGES

5 Brown bows out

Oh no! Oh dear God, no! *shakes fist at sky, collapses in puddle of tears*

That was my exact reaction when I heard that Chris Brown had announced his decision to "quit music." Nah, just kidding. I, along with most of the rest of the free world, just really DGAF.

Because, for one thing, his music is not that good. And, for another thing, remember that time he totally beat up his girlfriend and then, for some reason, we all totally overlooked it and sort of forgave him even?

On Tuesday, Brown announced on Twitter that, after the release of his upcoming album "X," he'll be quitting the biz, because he's "tired of being famous for a mistake [he] made at 18."

Not for nothing, though, but I'm pretty sure that "battering women" falls less under the umbrella of youthful missteps and more under "probable signs of a psychotic, misogynistic personality."

But yes, Chris Brown is purportedly leaving the business. Hit it and quit it, amirite bro? (zing)

4 Cheetah Girl disses Britney

Pot, meet kettle. Kettle, say hello to your new friend pot. Adrienne Bailon — a person of such topical insignificance that I had to throw her a Google in order to remind myself of who the hell she was (she was in that Disney Channel movie "The Cheetah Girls" and then was in some sort of short-lived, terrible girl band. You're welcome) — is going around saying that Britney is not a good conversationalist. (This could also be filed under "well, duh.")

Bailon — memories of whom, as I write this, are creeping back — reportedly went on CBS' "The Talk" and said "she (Spears) can't hold a conversation. No. They have someone who feeds her what she is supposed to say. Like, she can't hold a conversation."

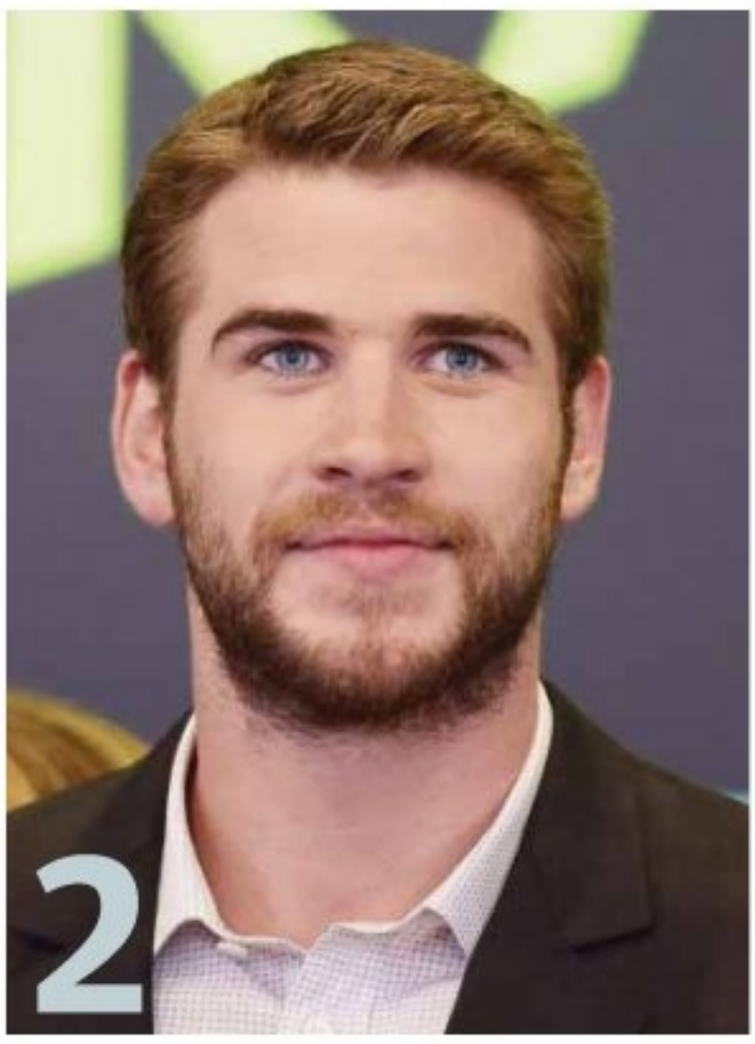
Well, like, hold on here, like, one minute. Bailon is not exactly a pillar of elocution and deep thought herself. My Google search led me to a few interviews that proved, as I suspected, that this young lady is probably not up for a Mensa membership anytime soon.

REMEMBER ADRIENNE BAILON? NEITHER DO WE. WIREIMAGE

I'm not ashamed (OK, I'm a little ashamed) to proclaim myself Team Britney. I'm happy to see her cleaning up her act and not being hooked on meth or dead and stuff. So I don't like to hear about Disney teen star has-beens taking pot-shots at her intellect as a way to get some attention. Like, really.

Celebrities. Your week in summer celebrity sightings

1 Actress **Roselyn Sanchez** gives her daughter, Sebella Rose, the microphone at Tuesday's press conference for Amazing Paw Paw Race Puerto Rico in San Juan.



2 "Paranoia" star **Liam Hemsworth** rings the NASDAQ bell in NYC on Aug. 6.

3 Actress **Lily Collins** leaves the set of "Good Morning America" at ABC's Times Square location on Aug. 7.

4 "The Real Housewives of Miami" star **Joanna Krupa** poses on the red carpet of the show's Season 3 premiere party in Miami on Tuesday.

5 **Wiz Khalifa** sports plaid at Tuesday's concert in Wantagh, N.Y., at Nikon at Jones Beach Theater.

6 Actress **Breann Johnson** shows off bold eyeliner at Tuesday's screening of "Red Wing" in Los Angeles.

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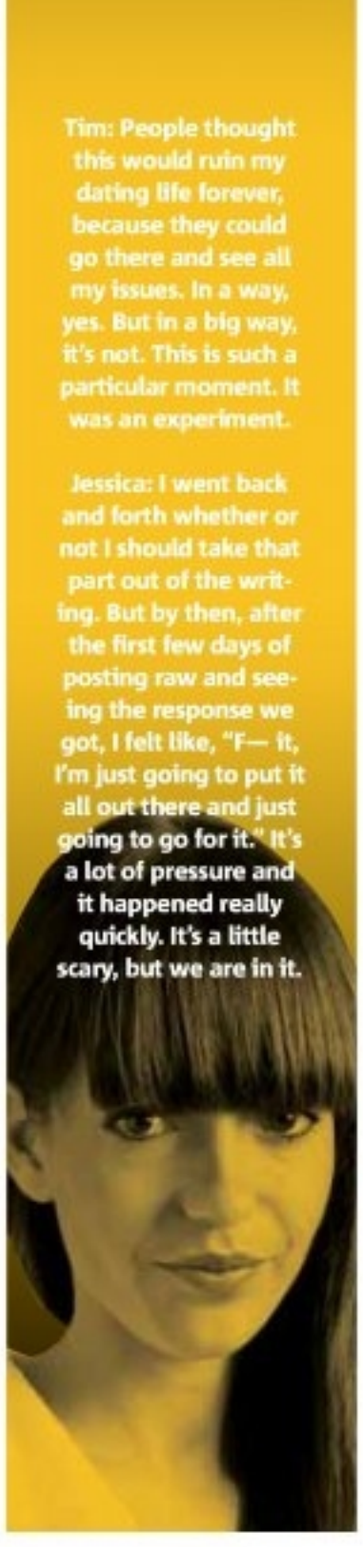
Sex talk

Tim: People thought this would ruin my dating life forever, because they could go there and see all my issues. In a way, yes. But in a big way, it's not. This is such a particular moment. It was an experiment.

Jessica: I went back and forth whether or not I should take that part out of the writing. But by then, after the first few days of posting raw and seeing the response we got, I felt like, "F— it, I'm just going to put it all out there and just going to go for it." It's a lot of pressure and it happened really quickly. It's a little scary, but we are in it.



40 days of dating: A real-life rom-com

Meet cute. Two friends decide to document their dating experience online — but they won't spoil the ending.

Everyone has that one friend they wonder what it would be like to date. You share common interests — but is the chemistry there? Would it ruin the closeness you have with each other now? Many of us don't bother taking the risk. But longtime NYC friends Jessica Walsh, 26, and Timothy Goodman, 32, decided to take that leap and participate in what they call an "experiment": date each other exclusively for 40 days and document the experience online.

How did you come to the conclusion that you would try dating and you would blog about it?
Tim: I had a small dating idea last summer, but I didn't really know what or how and I had forgotten about it. Jessica and I have always been close, and we have always bonded over our relationship problems. We are the single people in our group of friends and always made fun of each other for our issues. She was kind of heartbroken over a guy, I was dating too many women, and the idea of some sort of dating project came up.
Jessica: It all started last year on our way to Art Basel in Miami. I was pretty heartbroken over a guy. I had gotten out of a long-term relationship two years ago and ever since I had been trying to navigate the NYC dating scene. It was just not working out for me. Tim, on the other hand, has the opposite problem. He can never commit to a girl and I am always the hopeless romantic. We had been making fun of each other for four years about how different our issues were.

Did you worry that having this new relationship made so public would add pressure to you both?
Tim: Yes. The reason we didn't do it live is because we'd be influenced by each others' answers every time and the public's reaction. It was important to do the experiment first, not live. It was the only way we could keep a bit of sincerity.
Jessica: Definitely. The whole thing has been a huge risk, but I always felt in my own work that things that were scary ended up being the best things I created. I can't deny, I was scared s—less. But people respond to honesty and to what is human. It's been amazing to see the response that people have.

Are they or aren't they still together? Readers will have to wait until the 40 days are up on Aug. 22 to find out. / SANTIAGO CARRASQUILLA

Can you tell us if you are still together?
Tim: I cannot. We just cannot give any spoilers.
Jessica: I cannot.

CASSANDRA GARRISON
cassandra.garrison@metro.us

The Hookup

AMBER MADISON

AMBERMADISONONLINE.COM

Amber Madison is a Manhattan-based trained therapist who specializes in dating and relationships and is currently taking on new clients. She is also the author of 'Are All Guys A—holes?' for which she traveled the country, spoke to more than 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter: @ambermadi.

NICE GUYS FINISH FIRST — ONLINE

A few years ago I criss-crossed the country talking to guys about sex, love and dating as research for my book, "Are All Guys A—holes?" Something I heard repeatedly from guys all over was that "girls love a—holes." Through a combo of dating books, their own experiences and observing the success of friends around them, many guys are thoroughly convinced that nice guys finish last and as one put it, "being nice is a mistake."

Well listen up, guys, because the overly cocky pick-up artist d—bag angle is played out. Trust me when I tell you, girls want to be with guys who are sweet. According to an analysis of half a million first contact messages sent on the dating site OKCupid, considerate is in! Guys who sent a message with the words "sorry," "awkward" and "apologize" were all significantly more likely to get a response back.

Nobody is buying the backhanded insults or monosyllabic texts. GETTY IMAGES, POLKA DOT RF

I know what you're thinking, "But I had just perfected my 'I don't give a s— about you' texting response times!" Well, un-pop your collar and listen up.

Being "nice" has gotten a bad rap because it's a synonym for boring. It's not that women don't want to be with guys who treat us well — it's that we don't want to be with a guy who has nothing to say, has no personality or doesn't command respect (especially from us). Occasionally, yes, we fall into the a—hole trap. But that's less about deep-seated masochistic tendencies and more about the fact that sometimes our attraction to confidence gets misguided.

You can be nice and confident at the same time. And actually, since ladies know that guys act like jerks as a way to fake confidence, being nice proves to us that you're comfortable enough not to have to fake it. Be who you really are, and be willing to stand out from the crowd. Show us your interest, but don't give off the impression you'd let us push you around. Showing respect for yourself and consideration to us at the same time is never a bad way to go. Whether online or in person, I promise you, this is the strategy that wins.

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Marc Jacobs Beauty is finally here

Beauty. The NY designer launches his first cosmetics line.

Set your alarm early for Friday, when Marc Jacobs' namesake cosmetics line finally hits Sephora and select Marc Jacobs stores. You might want to skip the coffee and log on to Sephora's website as soon as you wake up, as we expect the much-anticipated 120-product collection to sell out fast.

The line — including everything from skin-perfecting foundation, concealer and brow gel to statement-making colors for lips, eyes and nails — ranges in price from $18 for a nail polish to $78 for a bronzer brush.

The product we're pining for is the Magic Marc'er eyeliner — perfect for creating the bold Edie Sedgwick-esque eyes from Jacobs' Spring 2013 show.

And for those of you still lusting over a Marc Jacobs bag, the chic lacquered packaging will hold you over — or on second thought, it might convince you to take the plunge.

TINA CHADHA
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Covet. Chrissie Morris' eight-hour heel

In this, the era of attention-grabbing stilettos and platforms meant to stand out from the street style herd, there's something striking about a quieter, well-made shoe. This Chrissie Morris heel still comes with stand-out details to excite the eye (how sexy is that ankle strap?) but doesn't go as far as to become a circus act for the feet. That makes it an ideal candidate for your rotation of workhorse shoes for fall — you know, the heels that work in practically any setting, whether professional or social. Because you can only get so much mileage out of a shoe covered in three-dimensional thunder bolts. www.chrissiemorris.com

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At 10 am at 2515 S. Front St., Phila., PA 19148

#5361 Michael Blackie, 4053 Frank Casilo, 4070 Piyapom Chunmuang, 5312 Pacita Cordial, 574A James Dellavecchia, 1012 Delmar Ewings, 4086 Glendale Franklin, 4054 Fernando Hernandez, 1038 Ann Jones, 2047 Kimberly Mackey, 5752 Linda Pepe, 1016 Jose Santiago, 5736 Jordan Sibarath, 5113 Danielle Stratton.

At 10 am at 7049 Frankford Ave., Phila., PA 19135

#1611 Michael Bauer, 1619 Antoinette Cottman, 605 Kimberly Fullam, 14 Delisa Hill, 1607 Antoine Jackson, 602 Agnes Perdunn, 508 Tameka Tucker.

At 10 am at 5440 North 6th Street, Phila., PA 19120

#213 Kimberly Boggs, 2503 Nadirah Braggs, 37 Benjamin Burwell, 21 Lauren Capers, 2401 Joanne Charles, 1209 Ebonee Dolby, 334 Donna Fields, 2601 Anise Francis, 132 Luzonia Green, 303 Sandra Green, 312 Esther Greene, 2302 Sade Greenlee, 2605 Dorothy Griffin, 2901 Qwinaya Harris, 231 Steven McCallum, 3308 Elmoreecia Nelams, 608 Paulette G. Odrick, 3202 William T. Perry Jr., 1210 Joseph W. Pompey, 131 Oscar Shepherd, 3305 Jessie Stanard, 2804 Shawn Townes, 2402 Donna Jackson-Watkins, 3400 Rikita Watson, 313 Kenyatta Williams.

At 10 am at 5026 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128

#309 Kimberly Crowe, #513 William Dea, #656 Douglas Grossinger, #665 Douglas Grossinger, #602 Maurice Hall, #269 Stefan L. Ingram, #215 Isom Wesley Jones, #206 Erlene Nelson, #686 Carletta Robinson, #277 Bryan Shipenberg, #2222 Tara G.Tschanz, #26 Allen Webb, #131 Joann Williams.

At 10 am at 6758 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128

#36 Carol Brecht, 83 Marc Levitt, 56 Michael Paquin, 93 Cynthia Toth, 115 Cynthia Toth.

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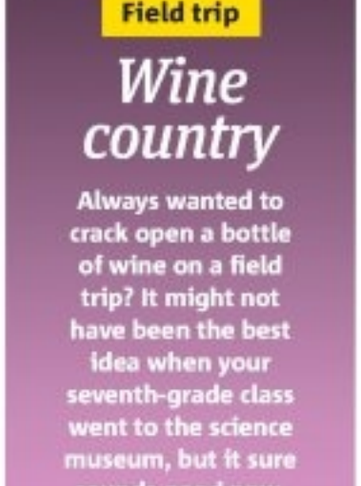
Field trip

Wine country

Always wanted to crack open a bottle of wine on a field trip? It might not have been the best idea when your seventh-grade class went to the science museum, but it sure sounds good now. On Sunday, Jet Wine Bar (1525 South St.) is hosting a bus trip to wine country.

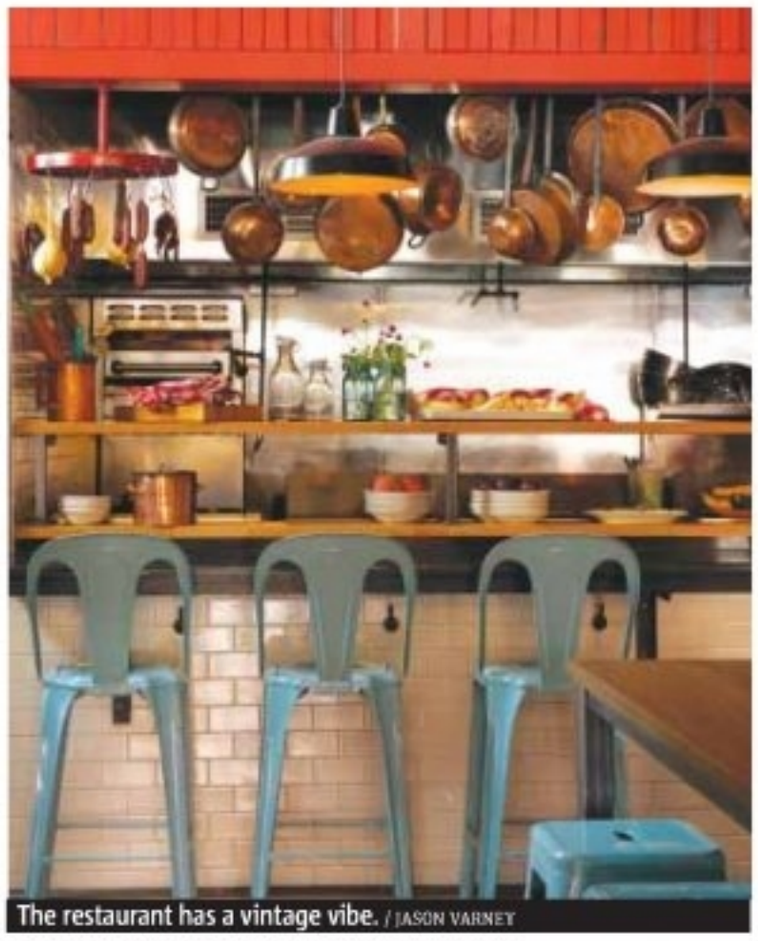
The first stop is Blair Vineyards. Sample the pinot gris and pinot noir and feast on a picnic lunch provided by Jet, then hop back on the bus to Pinnacle Ridge, where more pinot will be poured. The day starts at Jet at 11 a.m. with a champagne toast. Snag your tickets, $65, at www.jetwinebar.com.



The wait is almost over

Meatballs. Valerie Safran promises Little Nonna's will be "easy and good."

Get ready to dig in to Little Nonna's Italian fare. / JASON VARNEY



The restaurant has a vintage vibe. / JASON VARNEY

There's no firm opening date for Little Nonna's, the latest from Valerie Safran and Marcie Turney, the couple behind Barbuzzo and Jamonera, and we're starting to get a little antsy for our first taste of the pair's home-style Italian cuisine. Fortunately, their team reassures us the cozy new spot — 38 seats inside, 38 seats out back — will open at the end of the month, with city paperwork being the only holdup.

At least we still have Lolita's, their Mexican BYOB: It was slated to close for renovations the end of July, but will continue serving up the signature carne asada and fruity tequila mixers through next week.

Little Nonna's is at 1234 Locust St., a few blocks from Safran and Turney's six other restaurants and shops lining 13th Street between Chestnut and Sansom. The location had briefly been Fish, when Fish moved over from its larger corner spot to make room for Rhino Bar in the bigger space — which Gayborhood residents probably remember best as Bump.

"It's confusing," Safran says. "People didn't even realize that smaller space was there."

They'll be sure to notice when Little Nonna's starts dishing out gravy-doused, Italian grandma-approved cuisine crafted by Chef Turney. Safran, who handles the business side, envisions Little Nonna's as "easy and good."

"It'll have a casual vibe," she says. "Our dining philosophy is we'd rather eat out two or three times a week than once a month, and not have to spend crazy amounts of money to have a fresh meal."

RACHEL VIGODA
rachel.vigoda@metro.us

Quoted

"We want things to be totally affordable and easy, so people feel like they can come in for some tacos and beer at 10:30 at night."

Safran, on the Lolita's renovation

Street food

Tacos and tamales

The dining philosophy Safran describes at Little Nonna's is behind the Lolita's renovation, too. Safran and Turney opened the popular spot — their first restaurant venture — in 2004.

"The food [at Lolita's] is more of what it was 10 years ago — you get the protein, vegetable, starch all on one plate, with the price in the $20 range," Safran says. "It'll be a different format — more Mexican street food. We want to be able to order four or five things, rather than commit. Lolita's has been our baby for a long time. It's exciting to reinvent it."

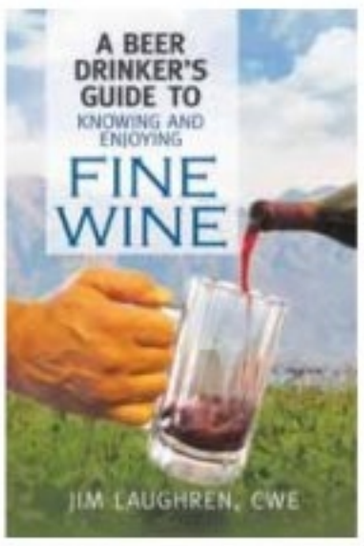
And yes, to answer your question: It's getting a liquor license.

A table at Lolita's is a coveted commodity. / GEORGE WIDMAN FOR GPTMC

Only a beer bro? Wild for just wine? Break out!

Booze. Go on, order that drink you're "too good" for. You might just have your mind blown.

Try something new this weekend. / DIGITAL VISION



Wine drinkers might turn up their noses at a cold can of beer. And beer drinkers might have zero interest in a tall glass of cabernet.

But this can change, promises certified wine educator Jim Laughren.

Constantly asked by women how to interest boyfriends and husbands in opening a great bottle of wine instead of cracking a beer at the end of a long day, he authored "A Beer Drinker's Guide to Knowing and Enjoying Fine Wine."

He is sure the two drinking camps have something in common.

"Wine drinkers can be just as bad as beer drinkers in their reluctance to cross the barrier," he says.

But he's hoping both can taste the other side.

"You should appeal to their adventurousness," he says.

Wine drinkers in particular might not realize all that goes into beer making — it's just as much complexity as wine making, Laughren promises.

Adds Kevin Faerkin at the Grand Central Oyster Bar, "Generally if people say, 'I don't like beer,' I would guarantee that they haven't run the gamut of all the different kinds of beer there are in the world."

Quoted

"You should appeal to their adventurousness."
Laughren

Tips

Find a new taste

Someone drawn to a lighter drink probably wants to try something light on the other side of the equation. Same with the heavy stuff: A tannen-heavy red fan might like a stout. "Those are people who are flavor junkies," Laughren says.

Wine suggestions for beer lovers

Light lager lovers: cava, sauvignon blanc or a light red wine such as a Rioja crianza
IPA or stout fans: brunello, Syrah, carmenere or a Bordeaux

Beer suggestions for wine lovers

Red wine fans: saisons, doppelbocks and Belgian strong ales
White wine fans: wheat beers and pilsners

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With Gerald Drummond at the helm, food is a fine art

Hot chef. The art museum cook wants to teach you his tricks.

Chef Gerald Drummond runs the show at Granite Hill. / ALEXANDRA COLL

Chef Gerald Drummond works at Granite Hill, a Stephen Starr restaurant inside the Philadelphia Museum of Art. There he hosts monthly cooking demos, and next up is a how-to on Spanish tapas. So grab a bottle of tempranillo and head to the museum.

What's it like going from a stand-alone restaurant to one within the museum?
It's a serious transition. There's a very, very big difference between the two. From a logistical standpoint, we're supposed to handle all the moving parts. In a restaurant you know if your ovens work, if your staff is in and that you're going to serve 200 people. And if the place closes at 11 o'clock, then you're done cooking at 11 o'clock. There are a lot more moving parts within catering. And if a customer wants something, you find a way to make it happen.

Can you tell us a little about the chef demonstrations held each month at the PMA?
I had the idea last October. We wanted to find a way to bridge food and art together as a way to really partner with the museum. Right now we're working on our fall and winter lineup.

So you plan to keep the demos going beyond the summer?
Yes. After the response we received for the first two classes, we definitely want to keep doing this. ... You can see the pride in their faces when they're done and they've made something themselves. And they take a lot of pictures of the food.

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

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L1011- Barlow, Derek • P007 - Kane, Brian • P027 - Highsmith, Felicia

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A002 - Gimbel, Jason • A011 - Fennell, Francine • A018 - Garcia, David • B022 - Martin, Lee
B049 -Sivels, Glenn • B069 - Gormley, Michael • B070 - Barreto, Jose • D029 - Hess, Libby
D037 - Mccormick, Brian • E044 - Hernandez, Dina • E076 - Stanback, Shawn
E113 - Wright, Michael • F004 - Adams, Claude

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A011 - Jennings, Benjamin • A028 - Saunders, Tamika • B197 - Tolleson, Don • B199 - Tolleson, Don • B223 - Gallagher, Sean
C286 - McMickens, Oscar • C315 - Williams, Shannon • C326 - Mendoza, Yomail • C379 - Henderson, Charles • C398 - Bateman, Edgar
D398 - Tolleson, Don • D410 - Tolleson, Don • D417 - Reyes, Evelyn • E472 - Whitlocks • E491 - Piper, Diana • F568 - Tolleson, Don
F576 - Tolleson, Don • F586 - Whitlocks • G618 - Parson, Tracey • G627 - Whitlocks • G648 - Tolleson, Don
G657 - Walker, Gregory • G666 - Tolleson, Don • P111 - Cherry, Ronald • P118 - Tolleson, Don • P145 -Mcqueen, Sheryn

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B272 Hart, Sandra • G734 Arzumanyan, Varazdat • K1348 Wells, Harold
L1080 Merschen , Theresa • N1448 Bowser, Floyd • O1550 Harris, Troy

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003 - Byers Natashie • 0027 - White, Karl • 0074 - Johnson, Jeffery • 0085 - Sidibe, Derris • 0262 - Ford, Charita
0304 - McDonnell, Ryan • 0433 - Morgan, Dennis • 0435 - Chels, Cecilia • 0436 - Banks, Joseph • 0551 - Gore, Debra
0577 - Ojinnaka, Kenneth • 0611 - Brown, Warren • 0620 - Kale, Tyrisha • 0654 - Waters, Maurice
0710 - Hayes, Johnny • 0722 - Junious, Khanisha • 0807 - Davis, Lamell • 0819 - Mitchell, Crystel
0824 - Bullentine, Stacy • 0827 - Virgilio, Veronica • 0831 - Jones, Markeen • 0900 - Maragross, Antoinette
0915 - Thomas Williams, Charlene • 0957 - Harris, Lorette • 1044 - Shaw, Lakendra • 9034 - Price, Skylind

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B173 - Cabrera, Alexis • B181 - Kendorski, Michelle
B188 - Mandy, Yavonda • C238 - Wible, Celeste • C254 - Bashir, Naimah
C291 - Soto, Luis • C340 - Edge, Sakoenah • C341 - Medina Jr, Roberto
D394 - Walton, Devon • D439 - Thornton, Daneen

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MUSIC

Darius Rucker

Aug. 9, 8:30-10 p.m.
Musikfest
Sands Steel Stage at PNC Plaza
25 W. Third St., Bethlehem
$39-$54
www.musikfest.org
Aug. 10, 10 p.m.
House of Blues
801 Boardwalk, Atlantic City
$50-$75
www.houseofblues.com
Most of you probably know him as Hootie from Hootie & the Blowfish, but Darius Rucker is a bonafide country star these days with hits "Wagon Wheel" and "Learn to Live." You have not one, but two chances to see him sing this weekend.

FESTIVAL

Southeast Asian Dragon Boat Festival

Aug. 10, noon-7 p.m.
Penn's Landing
Columbus Blvd. and Chestnut St.
Free
www.seadbf.com
Food, music, a beauty pageant and dragon-boat racing — this festival has it all. Watch as teams compete to win the Festival Cup and a cash prize, and chow down on Asian cuisine. Bring your sneakers for the break-dancing contest.

AQUARIUM

Shark Week: LIVE

Through Aug. 11
Adventure Aquarium
1 Riverside Drive, Camden
$18.95-$24.95, 856-365-3300
www.adventureaquarium.com
Gasp at rarely exhibited species from the largest collection of sharks on the East Coast. Even cooler, for the first time in the aquarium's history a limited number of guests will be allowed to feed the sharks. The icing on the Shark Week cake? You can also enter to win a chance to swim with the sharks in their 550,000-gallon Shark Realm Exhibit.

CONCERT

WXPN Kids' Corner Concert

Aug. 8, 6:30 p.m.
Morris Arboretum
100 E. Northwestern Ave.
$40-$45, 215-247-5777
www.upenn.edu/arboretum
Bring the kids and jam out to Trout Fishing in America against the backdrop of the arboretum's beautiful 92 acres. The Grammy-nominated duo combines folk and pop to entertain the whole family.

THEATER

'The Two Noble Kinsmen'

Aug. 10, 7 p.m.; Aug. 11, 2 p.m.
Through Aug. 18
The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre
2111 Sansom St.
Free, 215-496-9722
www.phillyshakespeare.org
Brotherly love takes on a different meaning in this Shakespeare play. Two men, driven out of their country by war, end up prisoners and fall in love with the same girl while behind bars. A deadly triangle ensues in this retelling of Chaucer's "The Knight's Tale." If you're not a subscriber, show up 45 minutes before the show starts to snag tickets.

COMEDY

Wayne Brady

Aug. 9, 9:30 p.m.
The Borgata
One Borgata Way, Atlantic City
$39.50, 609-317-1000
www.theborgata.com
This funny song-and-dance man and improv expert has been cracking audiences up for years. He's now on the newly revived "Whose Line Is It Anyway" and hosting "Let's Make a Deal." Here's your chance to see him in person.

HISTORY

Independence After Hours

Through Aug. 10, 5:30 p.m.
Historic Philadelphia Center
Sixth and Chestnut streets
$55-$85, 215-629-4026
www.historicphiladelphia.org
Start off the night with a prix fixe dinner at City Tavern and then take an exclusive tour of Independence Hall. You might even get to strike up a conversation with Ben Franklin.

We want you

Upload your own events!

Have an upcoming event that you want to let Metro readers know about? Send an email to phillyevents@metro.us and we'll get it on our new listings website.

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FESTIVAL

CHECK OUT EVEN MORE:

WWW.METRO.US/PHILADELPHIA/EVENTS

Pennsylvania Dutch Festival

Aug. 8-10, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Reading Terminal Market
51 N. 12th St.
Free, 215-922-2317
www.readingterminalmarket.org
Saddle up your horse and buggy for this fest. Fill up on Amish goodies like homemade pies and jams and shop for handmade wooden furniture and quilts. Kids can have fun at the outdoor petting zoo. / READING TERMINAL MARKET

NETWORKING

An After Work Affair

Aug. 9, 6-10 p.m.
Statuz Nightclub
600 Spring Garden St.
484-767-7089
www.standtallmanagement.com
Stand Tall Management Group presents the 1st Corporate Happy Hour every second and fourth Friday from 6-10 p.m. with live music, live band, drink specials and a free buffet. This week performing will be Amir Notes (R&B singer), JD Brown (Jazz/Soul), Gnomi Gre (Pop), Dave Watson (R&B) and Joe Love (R&B). Come out and be entertained after the long work week!

FESTIVAL

Mess Fest

Aug. 10-11, noon-4 p.m.
The Franklin Institute
222 N. 20th St.
Free with museum admission, 215-448-1200
www.fi.edu
If you're a clean freak, this is not your event. Everyone else, prepare to get gooey with messy science demonstrations. Just try not to get in the way of the Soap Bubble Monster. / FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

FESTIVAL

Peach Festival and Sidewalk Sale

Aug. 10-11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Peddler's Village, Bucks County
Free, 215-794-4000
www.peddlersvillage.com
Here's your chance to stuff your face with peaches. Also, to browse sidewalk sales and hear live music. But really, we're going for the peaches and the pie-eating contest. / PEDDLER'S VILLAGE

Horoscope

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. You're likely to be luckiest in matters pertaining to your financial affairs, especially if you're looking out for others.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. An important, influential contact upon whom you've made a good impression is ready to help you achieve important goals.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Even though your focus might be devoted to a specific objective, there is a very good chance that you could achieve many other successes as well.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Associates are likely to admire and respect your perspectives and opinions, mostly because they'll sense a certain light about you. It's called optimism.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Joint ventures look better than usual. Even if you're already involved, your chances for expanding have promise.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Because your judgment is so keen right now, the conclusions you draw should be exceptionally good ones.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. If you're performing a service for financial gain, the pay could turn out to be generous..

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. A partnership could turn out to be an exceptionally good one in terms of your social life. There's more to this alliance than meets the eye.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Certain necessary tasks can be easily accomplished today, but could become a problem if you put them off. Make every effort to do them now.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. You will be better than usual at seeing all the positive things. This attitude will generate some developments.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. You're likely to be luckier with financial matters today, so if you're smart, you'll do what you can to make lots of hay while the sun is shining.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Certain plans can now be expanded, producing greater personal advantages than even you dared hope.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

6			2	3		8		
								5
3				8			6	
9	7		8	4			1	
	3		5		1		9	
	8			7	2		3	6
	2			1				3
5								
		8		5	6			9

5		7	1			2		8
1					6	7		
				8	3			
		3	8	5				2
		9				1		
2				6	1	3		
			6	7				
		2	4					9
4		6			8	5		1

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Land of the free pass, home of the knave

Re: 'Don't let one bad spot spoil the whole fruit' (Metro, Aug. 5) I'm stunned! In any other universe, Eliot Spitzer would be a misogynistic creep who exploits women, but in this universe he is just "doin' what comes naturally." Can you spell "double standard," boys and girls? Let's not forget how Spitzer was found out — an alert bank employee recognized the money-laundering techniques he was using to cover up his payments to the prostitute. MONEY LAUNDERING! Not to mention that he invited himself to a congressional hearing to have an excuse for the taxpayers to pick up the tab for his travel to D.C. for a liaison. (Oh, and aren't both prostitution and patronizing a prostitute crimes?)

All this from the "Sheriff of Wall Street." The hypocrisy is palpable. I realize a ham sandwich could get elected in NYC as long as it runs as a Democrat, but I hope the voters will be a little more discerning in this election.

WILLIAM FLIPSE, VIA EMAIL

Only washboard abs need apply

Re: 'Who will be the next Batman?' (Metro, Aug. 5) I think the person who should seriously play Batman has to be Bradley Cooper. Gosling and Goode probably wouldn't be the right fits because seeing them in a costume like that would probably be just as sickening. Brolin may be a good candidate as well, but I think Cooper has the assets to play the famed vigilante. If not him, try Mark Wahlberg or Matt Damon.

AJ LANTERMAN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

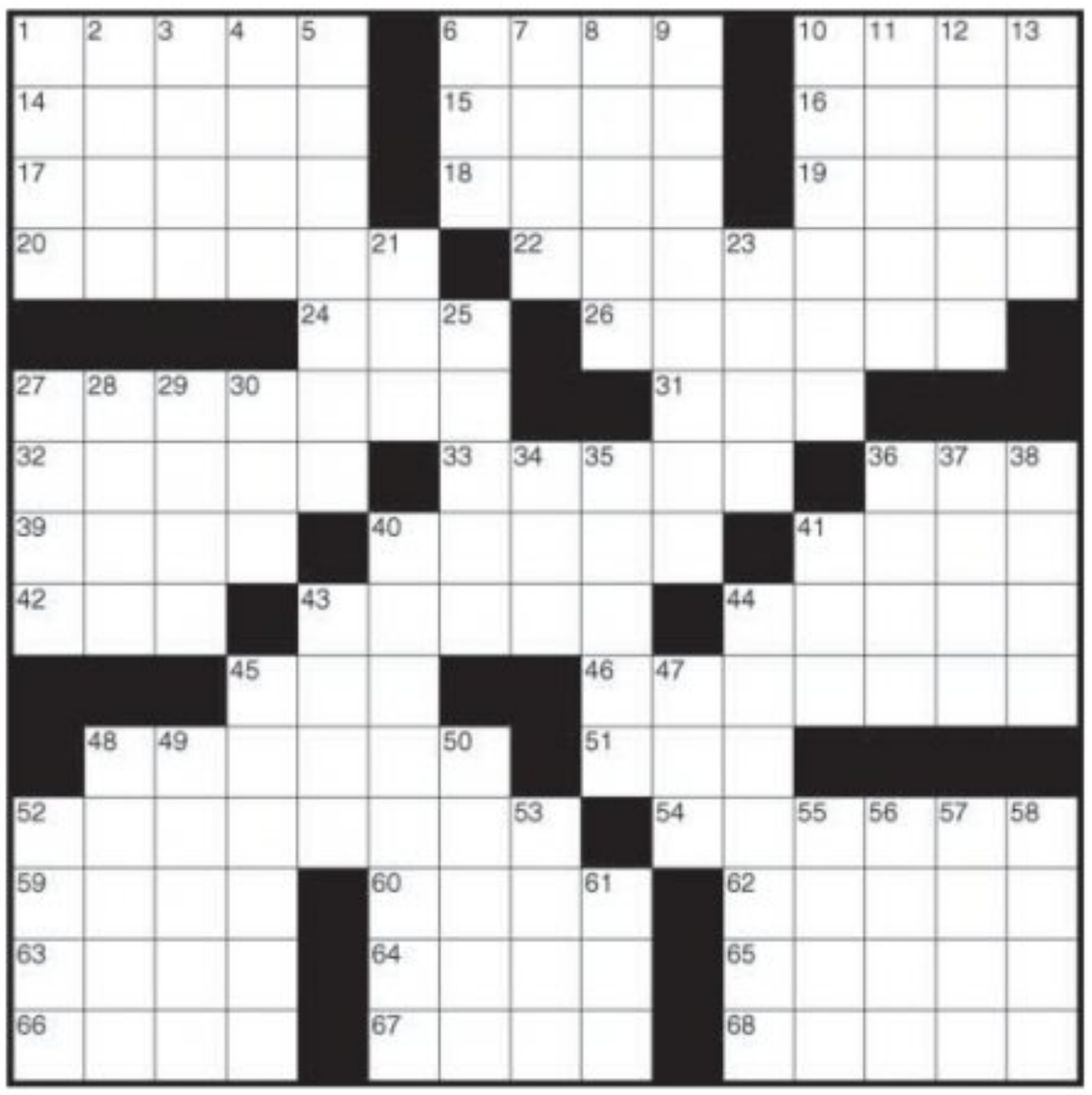
Across

1 Hobby knife (hyph.)
6 Crowbar end
10 Did great
14 Bedroom community
15 Whit
16 Ask, old-style
17 Peace Prize name
18 Author Roald —
19 Misplace
20 Darth Vader's real name
22 Tailed
24 Pit stop purchase
26 Looked as if
27 Sugar-cane cutter
31 Bird's beak
32 Monorails
33 Police busts
36 To's opposite
39 Verne skipper
40 Latin dance
41 Ta-ta in Turin
42 Weathervane dir.
43 Inclines
44 Cluster
45 Lots of laughs
46 Bad guys
48 Turn pale
51 Beatty of "Network"
52 Dismissals (hyph.)
54 Hardly tiptoes
59 Brand for Bowser
60 Frankenstein's assistant
62 Turn away
63 Gardener, often
64 Zero
65 Enthusiasm, plus
66 Hole-making tools
67 Pesky bug
68 Make vertical

Down

1 Warrior princess
2 Dendrite partner
3 Fidel's country
4 Long hike
5 Helps out
6 Spanish hero El —
7 Lie around
8 Aramis' friend
9 Big circus name
10 Self-assurance
11 Russell — of "Gladiator"
12 Moved gingerly
13 Changed color
21 Styron's — Turner
23 Wine sediments
25 Antitoxin
27 Natural elevs.
28 "Iliad" deity
29 Arrived
30 Insurance gp.
34 Current meas.
35 "Peer Gynt" creator
36 Foreign film ender
37 Road rally
38 Appreciative murmurs
40 Ponderosa activity
41 Magna — laude
43 Viking letter
44 Night owl need (2 wds.)
45 Kind deeds
47 Toshiba rival
48 Further down
49 Boutonniere's place
50 Navajo lodge
52 Tee-hee cousin (hyph.)
53 Carbonated water
55 Stadium shape
56 Cafe handout
57 Stiffly decorous
58 Iffy attempt
61 Squeal on

Wednesday's answer



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Not a starter in sight at Camp Kelly main event

NFL. The Eagles coach isn't tipping his hand on the QB situation as the team finishes prep for their first game.

Don't tell Chip Kelly the first preseason game is days away. It isn't going to speed up his decision to name a starter.

Mike Vick and Nick Foles shared first-team reps again Wednesday. Vick appears to be have the upper hand, although Foles has looked sharp in joint practices. That being said, Kelly isn't saying which one will take the first snap Friday.

"We do have to have someone start the game, but I wouldn't say the guy who starts the game is going to be the starter overall, in general, as we get going on September 9," Kelly said. "How do we divvy up Mike and Nick's snaps? We'll try to make that as even as possible."

The team's depth chart still lists both players as the starters. Kelly has stated numerous times that this is an open competition. Obviously he wants to see how Vick and Foles react in a live-game situation, something the two have gotten a small taste of going up against the Patriots' first-team defense.

"I've never been a part of anything like this," Foles said. "It's a great experience to go against someone else and see different looks in a practice situation."

Under Andy Reid, starters played only in the first quarter of the first preseason game.

"That is kind of the model, but there's got to be some flexibility between that," Kelly said. "I guess those are more guidelines than rules."

MICHAEL GREGER
michael.greger@metro.us

Taking flight

Birds line up for real in first preseason game against the Patriots.

- When: Friday, 7:30 p.m. at the Linc
- TV: 6ABC and NFL Network
- Radio: 94.1 WIP-FM and 610 AM

Mike Vick and Nick Foles will share reps Friday night. / RIKARD LARMA, METRO

3 SPORTS

NFL

Benn out for year

The Eagles officially placed wide receiver Arrelious Benn on injured reserve Wednesday, likely ending his season. Benn will undergo knee surgery after tearing his ACL at Tuesday's practice. He is the third Eagles player to tear an ACL this summer, prompting many to refer to the rash of injuries as the "Lehigh Curse."

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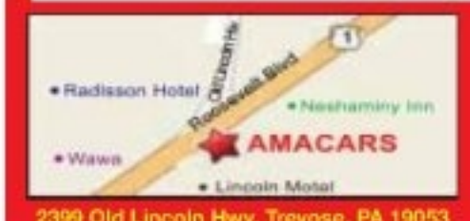

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METRO'S FANTASY GURU BREAKS IT ALL DOWN

NFL news

Since C.J. Spiller was underutilized by the Chan Gailey regime, there's a perception he won't be a volume back this year. Don't fall into that trap. Check out this quote from new OC Nathaniel Hackett: "It's real simple. We're going to give him the ball until he throws up."

SLEEPERS ARE GREAT, BUT BEWARE OF BUSTS

Chicks dig the sleepers. Everyone wants to find the next Alfred Morris or Robert Griffin III. They don't want to conjure up memories of Ryan Mathews and Darren McFadden.

However, chicks also dig winners. That's why we have to avoid the prime "bust" candidates heading into fantasy drafting season.

Tough hill to climb. Ronnie Hillman has generated a ton of buzz because he's running as the starting running back in Broncos camp. Upon closer examination, he's being overhyped.

Hillman is a slightly built 200-pounder that the team has repeatedly called a change-of-pace player. He excels on perimeter runs and getting in space. Montee Ball, on the other hand, is a traditional between-the-tackles runner. He's getting first-team reps as well and is more suited to a bell cow role. Hillman's upside is as a committee back.

Dolphins receiver Mike Wallace cashed in as a free agent, but that doesn't mean he'll be a fantasy stud. / GETTY IMAGES

Young Money. The Dolphins paid Mike Wallace $60 million in free agency, but that doesn't mean it will work.

As the leader of the "Young Money" crew in Pittsburgh, Wallace specialized in taking the top of defenses with go routes. The problem is that Miami is trying to cram him into its strict West Coast scheme, while also breaking in turnstile left tackle Jonathan Martin and second-year quarterback Ryan Tannehill. There's a lot of crash-and-burn potential here.

Rivers of screams. The "wait on a quarterback" strategy is very viable. But don't wait and end up with Philip Rivers.

New coach Mike McCoy has gotten rid of the old vertical scheme and implemented a quick-hitting, conservative passing game. It's an attempt to hide both Rivers' declining arm and one of the league's worst offensive lines.

Things got worse for Rivers this week as top wideout Danario Alexander was lost with a torn ACL. It's going to be ugly in San Diego.

MLB pickups

Keep these names in mind if you are looking to tweak your fantasy baseball roster this week:

- Ian Kennedy, SP, Padres
  Kennedy went from Arizona to San Diego. For a pitcher, that's like going from hanger steak to filet.
- Eric Young Jr., OF, Mets
  He's batting leadoff every day and producing. Plus, he has 85 steals in 354 career games.
- Josh Fields, RP, Astros
  Houston traded its closer, Jose Veras, to the Tigers at the deadline. Fields isn't very good, but he's getting a chance to save games.

Fields / GETTY IMAGES

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7-Day Bermuda Fr. $449* pp — Ocean View $579*, Balcony $799*
7-Day Bahamas Fr. $549* pp — Ocean View $599*, Balcony $899*
9-Day Caribbean Fr. $659* pp — Ocean View $779*, Balcony $1009*

Holland America Line
Receive up to $575 Onboard Credit, plus Free Dining, Wine or Champagne on select sailings
7-Day Alaska $349* Fr. pp — Ocean View $499*, Suite $989*
7-Day Caribbean $499* Fr. pp — Ocean View $549*, Balcony $789*
7-Day Europe $499* Fr. pp — Ocean View $599*, Balcony $1479*
10-Day Panama $889* Fr. pp — Ocean View $989*, Balcony $1379*

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Receive up to $575 Onboard Credit, plus complimentary wine with dinner on select sailings
7-Day Alaska $349* Fr. pp — Ocean View $449*, Balcony $599*
7-Day U.S./Canada $599* Fr. pp — Ocean View $649*, Balcony $1024*
10-Day Panama $799* Fr. pp — Ocean View $899*, Balcony $1199*
12-Day Australia $799* Fr. pp — Ocean View $899*, Balcony $1299*

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7-Day Bahamas $379* Fr. pp — Ocean View $649*, Balcony $649*
7-Day Bermuda $449* Fr. pp — Ocean View $519*, Balcony $849*
10-Day Caribbean $489* Fr. pp — Ocean View $919*, Balcony $959*
7-Day Europe $499* Fr. pp — Ocean View $699*, Balcony $749*

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Receive FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities, up to $1000 Onboard Credit plus up to $350 in Onboard Savings on select sailings
7-Day Alaska $499* Fr. pp — Ocean View $699*, Balcony $1149*
7-Day Caribbean $549* Fr. pp — Ocean View $749*, Balcony $1049*
6-Day Bermuda $549* Fr. pp — Ocean View $599*, Balcony $749*
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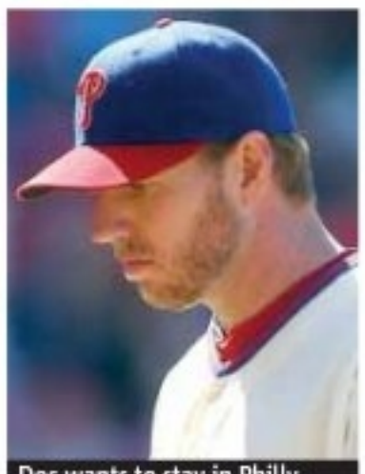
Halladay throws, ready for live hits

MLB. The former Phillies ace is attempting to come back this season, but he won't rush back too soon.


Doc wants to stay in Philly.
GETTY IMAGES

Roy Halladay almost cracked a smile while discussing his comeback. Doc is traveling to Florida Thursday to face live hitters after throwing a five-inning bullpen session on Monday.

"I feel really good," Halladay said. "There are days when it feels like the ball jumps better than others but I feel good. There have been no setbacks."

Halladay didn't talk about velocity.

"I think arm slot is more important than that," Halladay said. "I like where my arm slot is. My arm slot hasn't been in that spot since 2011."

Halladay threw a 75-pitch session. He's around the early- to mid-spring training point. Don't expect the once-dominant hurler to hurry back since his deal with the Phillies expires at the end of the season.

"I just want to play," Halladay said. "It's not about me coming back for a contract next season."

Halladay said he wants to pitch for a team that could win in 2014. Despite the Phillies' disappointing season and recent free fall, Halladay is confident the Phils can turn it around next year.

"I see a lot here that I like," Halladay said. "You have Chase Utley. ... I see Domonic Brown as a positive. We'll see what Ryan Howard does this winter. I really like what I see. This would be my first choice [to play in 2014]."

If the Phillies are interested in bringing Halladay back, he would like to see the organization extend pitching coach Rich Dubee.

"To me, it's important," Halladay said. "I feel that the longer a guy knows me, the more he can help me. Rich has helped me tremendously."

Halladay is confident he can turn back the clock and, at the very least, pitch much better than he did earlier this season.

"I want to pitch at a higher level," Halladay said.

If Halladay impresses in September, MLB analyst and former Phillies manager Larry Bowa believes the Phillies should ink Doc to a deal.

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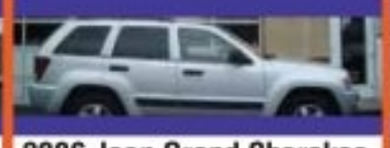
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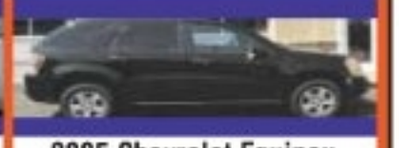
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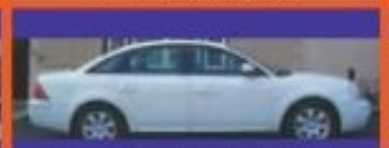
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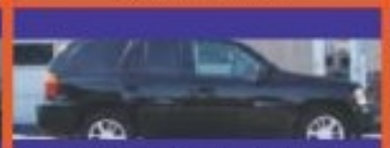
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Racial slurs written on monument

MLB. A statue of Jackie Robinson was defaced outside a stadium in Coney Island.

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With race relations in the balance in the wake of the Riley Cooper scandal, there was another incident. A statue honoring Jackie Robinson outside the stadium of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a Mets minor-league team, was defaced with swastikas and racial slurs.

The statue depicts Pee Wee Reese with his arm around Robinson. The New York Daily News first reported the story.

"The statue is a symbol of tolerance," Billy Harner, director of communications for the Cyclones, told the newspaper. "It's an absolute tragedy that someone would deface it the way they did."

MICHAEL GREGER
michael.greger@metro.us

Major League Baseball celebrated Jackie Robinson Day in April.
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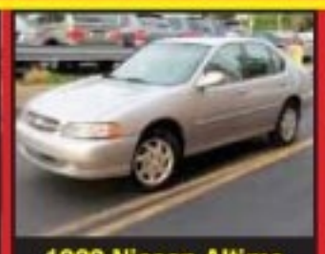

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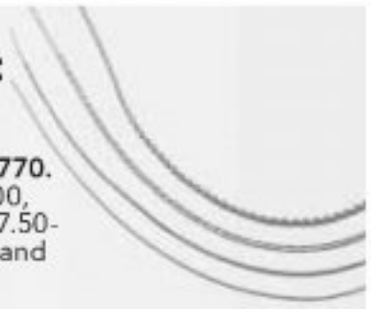

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